Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-045 *7 March 1991*

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Cuba

U.S. Military Aid Bill for Latin America Noted

FL0703022591 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0026 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Commentary by Lazaro Barredo on the "Exclusive" program]

[Text] Through a dispatch from the Spanish news agency EFE, I have found out that there is a female hawk in the Pentagon. What a shame that I have to offer this commentary almost on the eve of International Women's Day! At a congressional hearing—specifically, before the Foreign Relations Committee of the House of Representatives—Nancy Dorn, Dick Cheney's deputy assistant secretary of defense, has just justified the bill for U.S. military aid to Latin America and the Caribbean with the same agitator's pose and the same phantasmagoric language of calling up the bogeyman—that is, Cuba—to scare them, as the previous eight administrations in the White House have done.

I think that if the American legislators took the trouble to look up the speeches by Mrs. Dorn's predecessors in the extensive Library of Congress, they would confirm that what she is saying now is exactly what they said, down to the periods and commas. What did this lady say? I quote verbatim: Cuba could attempt a policy of destabilizing the democratic governments of Latin America. About this warning, she stated to the legislators: The United States should prepare itself for a possible final attempt by the Cuban regime to foment trouble in the region.

Where does she get these ideas? Well, from the maniacal conviction this administration has that the Cuban president will continue to be virulently anti-American, and once more, as their oracles predict every year, that he has little time left. That is, in the world of today, if one assumes a position of self-determination, if one maintains a policy of national sovereignty and independence, if one refuses to be the superpower's lamb, one is sure to be labelled anti-American.

This lady's assertions are like caricatures, since it seems she is not even informed about what other officials of her same rank have said. Because, friends, if there is something that really concerns the U.S. Government, it is the desire for integration and unity that Cuba is showing towards Latin America and the Caribbean and the acceptance this also has among them. For example, Bernard Aronson, Baker's assistant secretary of state, recently reminded the legislators of this same committee that—and I am quoting verbatim—the Latin American governments do not seem to be as concerned about the Cubans' problems as the U.S. Administration is, since with a few exceptions the vast majority of them maintain diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba. This is what Mr. Aronson has just said.

It seems that the deputy assistant secretary of defense is not informed about what the dispatches of the American press agencies are saying either. Coinciding with Mrs. Nancy Dorn's statements, the UPI has issued a dispatch datelined Buenos Aires in which it reports on the talks by telephone that President Bush has had with some Latin American presidents to try to induce the Rio Group—which is made up of Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Mexico, and Paraguay—to seek or try to obtain a hardening in the positions of the United Nations—read, the Human Rights Commission—with regard to Cuba.

What is obvious is that there continues to be manipulation of public opinion about our case through disinformation. We Cubans are not anti-American. It is the obsession of the U.S. Government, which again and again with dogmatic stereotyping assumes the sick-minded pose of anti-Cuban sentiment. For me, what is clear is that the words of the deputy assistant secretary of defense cannot be thrown in the wastebasket, and they show that the boastful hawks are now very industrious in manufacturing pretexts.

The world, with the Persian Gulf and all, has changed a lot in this region. No matter what is said, Cuba is not isolated, nor does anyone other than the United States consider Cuba a threat today. Today, perhaps more than ever, the political righteousness of the solitary star inspires respect, admiration, and recognition.

Namibia's Nujoma Attends Ceremonies, Departs

Attends Embassy Inauguration

FL0603130891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of the Republic of Namibia and of the SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization], has attended the inauguration of the Namibian Embassy in Cuba. Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee Politburo and vice president of the Council of State, attended the embassy's opening ceremony. Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca was also present.

Sam Nujoma recalled the indestructible ties of friendship linking his country with Cuba. He said they got started and became stronger in the middle of SWAPO's armed struggle for total independence. Sam Nujoma had visited Pinar del Rio Province earlier.

[Begin recording] The tour of the president of the Republic of Namibia and his accompanying delegation began at Los Palacios rice harvesting complex, where he received a detailed briefing on the rice harvesting engineering system which makes high rice yields possible. In Pinar del Rio, 1,200 hectars of flat terraces have been completed and 900 others are being built.

Later, the SWAPO leader, together with Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, member of the PCC Politburo, visited the 30 November sugar mill.

There Nujoma learned about the characteristics and operation of the first sugar mill built by the revolution which has broken its production record in the last three harvest seasons.

Other places visited by President Sam Nujoma during his stay in Pinar del Rio Province were sugarcane areas where the plot drainage system is being introduced in the plantation and the Fregat machine is being used for the irrigation of cane.

In La Paloma camp, the visitor talked with the EJT [Youth Labor Army] machete soldiers, to whom he expressed appreciation for the shows of affection he received. During the lively chat, he highlighted the role played by the Cuban troops in the Cuito Cuanavale battle which later made his fatherland's liberation possible.

[Nujoma in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] We are very happy to be visiting the Republic of Cuba and especially your camp, coming from a free and independent Republic of Namibia. We are very much impressed by the work you are doing, the way you work the land to produce vegetables and fruits, not only for consumption in your camps but also for the entire population and the surplus for exports to other countries. I wish you further success in your revolutionary endeavors. Muchas gracias. [preceding two words rendered in Spanish] [applause]

The last place visited by the African leader in Pinar del Rio was the construction of the Bayate Two dam being built by Blas Roca Contingent's Brigades Nine and 27. Once finished, the dam will impound 12.5 million cubic meters of water and will make possible the irrigation of extensive cane and rice fields in Pinar del Rio. [end recording]

Presents Medals to Citizens

FL0603164891 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] and the Republic of Namibia, has presented the (Oglonbache) Medal to 50 military and civilian Cuban citizens. This is the highest honor the Namibian Government presents to SWAPO fighters.

[Begin Nujoma recording in English with simultaneous Spanish translation] This medal has the image of a pistol on the front and a sub-machine gun on the reverse. I smuggled these weapons into Namibia in an aircraft in 1964 and started the armed struggle of the Namibian freedom fighters. Many of you, comrades in combat, members of the Cuban internationalist forces, fought many battles with the comrades of our liberation forces in defense of the territorial integrity of Angola. This ensured the freedom and sovereignty of Angola. More important yet, you helped the people of Angola, under the revolutionary leadership of the late comrade, President Antonio Agostinho Neto, by providing logistic centers and help to the SWAPO fighters which allowed us to fight the occupying South African forces in Namibia. [end recording]

Holds News Conference

FL0603213091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Report on news conference granted by Sam Nujoma, president of the South-West African People's Organization (SWAPO) and the Republic of Namibia, at the Palace of Conventions in Havana City on 6 March with unidentified reporters—recorded; Nujoma's remarks in English with simultaneous translation into Spanish]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. President, after almost one year of your country's independence, has the Namibian Government started negotiations to recover Walvis Bay, where the South African Government has one of its main naval commands? [Words indistinct] some time ago, a South African Government representative assured us that Walvis Bay is not subject to negotiation because it belongs to South Africa.

[Nujoma] As far as the Government of the Republic of Namibia is concerned, Walvis Bay has been and continues to be part of the Republic of Namibia. My government does not recognize a British or South African colonial enclave at Walvis Bay. Colonialism and occupation in this region has been condemned and rejected by the Namibian people. This is why we struggled for the liberation of our country.

The international community has also overwhelmingly rejected colonialism. The UN Security Council passed Resolution 342 in 1978, which clearly states that Walvis Bay is part of the future state of Namibia. Therefore, my government and the South African Government will soon begin negotiations for the handing over of Walvis Bay and the offshore islands to the Republic of Namibia.

[Moderator] Nujoma answered a a question by a Czechoslovak journalist about the Cuban press.

[Nujoma] I do not think you are correct when you say that the Cuban press advocates confrontations and wars among nations. We support and promote peace and cooperation among nations of the world. I believe that this is also the position upheld by the Republic of Cuba.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Nujoma] No, we do not have ideas. [sentence as heard] We have no intention of fighting any nation. We are in favor of peace and cooperation among all countries in the world.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Moderator] The Namibian chief of state also assessed the results of his visit to Cuba and of the talks with Commander Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers.

[Nujoma] We are satisfied [words indistinct] the talks we have held with President Comrade Fidel Castro Ruz. We are also satisfied with the talks that took place between the Namibian and Cuban ministers.

In a few minutes we will sign a scientific-economic cooperation agreement with President Fidel Castro Ruz. Through this agreement, ministers will be able to negotiate trade and cooperation agreements at all levels.

We are very happy that the Republic of Cuba has sent 23 medical doctors and health experts to Namibia to support the 14 members of the Cuban health team that is already serving in Namibia.

Signs Agreement With Castro

FL0603190591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro and Namibian President Sam Nujoma have signed an agreement creating the joint intergovernmental commission for economic, scientific, technical, and commercial cooperation between the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Namibia. Army General Raul Castro Ruz was present for the signing of the document.

Under the basis of a mutual and beneficial interest, the agreement provides for cooperation in areas of interest for the two countries such as fisheries, health, education, culture, agriculture, construction, and everything related to science and technology, in addition to economic and trade matters.

A cultural agreement was signed based on this main agreement signed by the two countries' top figures. The cultural agreement was signed by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca and Nicky Izambo, minister of health and social services of Namibia.

An agreement had been signed previously by the State Committee of Economic Cooperation of Cuba and the Ministry of Health and Social Services of Namibia. This agreement complements the one signed between the two institutions in September of 1990, which includes the cooperation of health specialists.

The visiting delegation left for the Jose Marti International Airport after these agreements were signed.

Seen Off by Fidel Castro

FL0603200091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] We have just received a report indicating that Sam Nujoma, president of SWAPO [South-West African People's Organization] and the Republic of Namibia, a few moments ago ended his official and friendly visit paid at the invitation of Commander in Chief Fidel Castro. Castro, first secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, saw Nujoma off at the Havana Airport where he was paid the honors appropriate to his position.

Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and other leaders of the party, state, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Havana were also present at the ceremony.

A large crowd representing the Cuban people and Namibian students also gave a warm farewell to the prominent African leader and his delegation.

The visit Nujoma began last Friday is his first one to Cuba as president of the recently acquired independent Namibia. Nujoma has held this post since 21 March 1990. During these five days, the chief of state of the friendly country and those accompanying him held official talks with members of the Cuban side and fulfilled a busy agenda of visits and tours through places of interest.

During one of the most emotional moments of his stay in Cuba, the Namibian president was decorated with the Jose Marti Order during a solemn ceremony held at the Palace of the Revolution. The decoration was bestowed on him by Fidel. The traditional ties of friendship existing between the two peoples were strengthened by this visit paid by Sam Nujoma, who on several occasions expressed his deepest appreciation to Cuba for the support given to the Namibian people during their struggle for independence.

A Cuban medical brigade composed of 29 people, including six women, left for Namibia on the same flight as the delegation headed by Nujoma to return to its fatherland at the request of the Namibian president and his government. The medical group will fulfill an internationalist mission in that southern cone African country for two years. The members of the brigade are specialists in the fields of gynecology and obstetrics, urology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopedics, integral general medicine, internal medicine, pharmacology, x-ray, educational therapy, and nuclear medicine.

After the farewell ceremony was over and minutes before the plane took off, Fidel climbed the aircraft's rear ramp to briefly bid farewell to the members of the medical brigade who will work in Namibia and to wish them success in their mission.

DPRK General Tours Santiago, Greeted by Lazo

FL0603191391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] General Choe Kwang, chief of the Army General Staff of the DPRK, has toured Santiago de Cuba City where he was welcomed by Esteban Lazo, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Politburo and first

secretary of the PCC in Santiago de Cuba Province. During his stay in the city, he paid homage to Jose Marti and those fallen in defense of the socialist motherland by laying flower wreaths at the two mausoleums. He also visited the Moncada Barracks Museum.

Rafael Rodriguez Meets Swedish Vice Minister

FL0603172091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has met with Swedish Foreign Vice Minister (Per Shori) during his brief working visit to Cuba. Rodriguez and (Shori) discussed various aspects of international affairs. Their conversation paid special attention to the Persian Gulf postwar situation and the management of the post-cease-fire period under the guidance of the United Nations.

Liquid Ammonia Pipeline Begins Operations

FL0603201191 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Nine hundred tons of liquid ammonia have been moved for the first time through the pipeline being built in Cienfuegos City. The pipeline is approximately 2 km long. It links Cienfuegos' pier number four and the nitrogenase fertilizer plant. The pipeline is able to move up to 80 tons of ammonia per hour.

The beginning of operations of the pipeline guarantees the availability of supply required by the fertilizer plant and the Sugar Industry Ministry [Minaz] enterprise. The first shipment, imported from the USSR, arrived in Cienfuegos from Nuevitas. As a result of this, the Minaz enterprise has already received 400 tons of this product.

A joint brigade, formed by maintenance workers from the plant, the tanks and ducts construction enterprise from the Ministry of Basic Construction, and the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, participated in the construction of the pipeline. Work continues on the construction of several steel tanks, each with a capacity of 200 cubic meters.

Dominican Republic

Rafael Albuquerque Named Secretary of Labor

FL0503145091 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0930 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Dr. Rafael Albuquerque has been designated as labor secretary. Albuquerque replaces Dr. Lupo Hernandez Rueda, who declined the position after being nominated to replace Dr. Washington de Pena. Albuquerque is an expert in labor law and was an Independent Revolutionary Party candidate for the position of National District senator during the last election campaign. Albuquerque was part of the government commission assigned to prepare a preliminary report to reform labor laws. His designation as labor secretary is contained in Executive Branch Decree 82-91.

Grenada

Thomas Named Communications, Works Minister

FL0603010391 Bridgetown CANA in English 2142 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 5, CANA—The Grenada Government has appointed a lawyer, Tillman Thomas, minister of communications and works, Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite reported Tuesday.

Thomas, a former junior minister of social security, replaces Kenny Lalsingh who resigned last week. Thomas is a government senator. He ran on a ticket of Brathwaite's National Democratic Congress in the March 1990 general election and failed to win a seat.

Lalsingh resigned last Friday amidst claims—which he denied—that he was abusing his ministerial position.

The new parliamentary secretary in the Communications and Works Ministry is Dr. Lawrence Gibbs, a former opposition Grenada United Labour Party member. He replaces Norton Noel, who was transferred to the Labour Ministry.

Police To Investigate Opposition Threat

FL0703121591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1148 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, March 7, CANA—Grenadian Government officials are apparently calling in the police to investigate what they say is an opposition threat to have the government removed from office. Prime Minister Nicholas Brathwaite told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY: "I think I'll have to draw the attention of the police to that statement because I thought that all the parties which contested the last election were committed to parliamentary democracy as set out in the Grenada Constitution."

Government officials claim leader of the opposition New National Party [NNP], Dr. Keith Mitchell, publicly said he would launch a campaign to remove the government from office. Mitchell denied the charge.

"I am particularly concerned about anybody who is going to attempt to go outside of the parliamentary system to talk about getting a government out of office because it means that you are talking about unconstitutional means," Brathwaite said.

Mitchell responded: "I certainly don't know what the prime minister is talking about. He had better look inside of his government if he wants to find out who is bringing what down." The NNP leader said he is not aware of any person on his party's platform stating a

desire to bring the government down. He said he has "always warned people against anarchy and any sort of violence."

Haiti

Second Frenchman Killed; Preval Cites Measures

FL0603025491 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Related to the security problem in Port-au-Prince, a second French citizen was killed yesterday while he traveled up the Canape-Vert Road to Petionville in his car. The victim, Robert Coirin, was a doctor, a physiotherapist, and a French citizen, though Haitian by birth.

The other French citizen who was killed was a woman, Mrs. Chantale Lapouille. Her murder occurred last Saturday, 2 March, also in the Petionville region of Port-au-Prince.

It was while the victim, Robert Coirin, was traveling up the Canape-Vert hill that armed young men on a motorcycle attempted to steal his car, according to reports of witnesses.

In response to these murders, the head of the new Haitian Government, Rene Preval, and the military authorities announced a number of measures last night. They did not reveal, however, what measures will be taken to seriously fight the security problem in the country.

Prime Minister Preval appeared last night on National Television of Haiti [TNH], with Lieutenant-Colonel Ramus Saint-Vil, who was appointed police chief of Port-au-Prince the same day, 4 March 1991.

They took advantage of the opportunity to denounce destabilization maneuvers being made against the new government, maneuvers certainly related to acts of violence taking place in Port-au-Prince.

Macoutes Demonstrate, Attack Journalist

FL0603144091 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Report by correspondent from Petite Riviere]

[Text] A Radio Haiti-Inter reporter in the lower part of Artibonite region was attacked. Senator Eddy Dupiton and several magistrates of the Artibonite region escaped death during demonstrations held by Duvalierist partisans on March 2.

[Begin correspondent recording] On March 2, macoutes in Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite assaulted a Radio Haiti-Inter correspondent and attacked the first senator of Artibonite, the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] coordinator for Artibonite, and the cartel of magistrates, elected on 16 December in Artibonite. This incident took place soon after the elected cartel of magistrates decided to replace the administrative staff of the communal school. This decision provoked the macoutes who started demonstrating, set up barricades, closed the city hall office, and demanded the dismissal of the elected cartel. The situation remains very tense.

In order to solve the problem, the Artibonite first senator, Thomas Eddy Dupiton, and Serge Desroches, FNCD coordinator for Artibonite, the elected cartel, went to Petite Riviere de l'Artibonite on 2 March. Alarmed by the visit, the macoutes gathered in front of the Petite-Riviere de l'Artibonite Catholic Church. They rang the bells. The macoutes went to the house of the third Artibonite senator, Dejean Belizaire. Then they went to the court house where Serge Desroches, the judges, and Radio Haiti-Inter correspondent Oris Fritzon were. The demonstrators came with tires and fuel and threatened the members of the delegation who remained calm. After an exchange of words, two demonstrators severely beat Radio Haiti-Inter correspondent Oris Fritzon.

Once again, journalists have suffered the macoutes' aggression in Haiti. This time, it is in the hands of the concerned authorities who refuse to arrest and judge the guilty people. This situation requires a quick solution to avoid bloodshed. [end recording]

U.S., Canada, France, Germany Fund Energy Sector

FL0603231991 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Yesterday the Preval-Aristide government again advised that the problem of power failure in Port-au-Prince will soon be solved. The energy sector indeed benefited from specific international financing to stop the deep crisis which inhabitants of Port-au-Prince are facing.

The American Administration, through the AID, intends to grant $3 million to install 10 mobile generators in Port-au-Prince provided by the Canadian company Hydro-Quebec, for a total of 32 megawatts.

Ottawa will provide a federal-bilateral grant of $2 million to complete the financing of this five-month operation. During this period, France will make a contribution of $6 million for the operation of eight engines of 7.7 megawatts to run the thermal power stations in Vareux and Carrefour [suburbs of Port-au-Prince].

Germany intends to contribute to the increasing energy capacity of Port-au-Prince by providing installations of 20 megawatts.

The minister of public works, Frantz Verela, confirms that with such support from the countries who are friends of Haiti, we are not far from finding a solution to the blackout problem in Port-au-Prince. [passage omitted]

Rights Group, Envoys, Aristide Discuss Refugees

FL0703001291 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] [Begin recording] A human rights delegation, along with a group of accredited foreign diplomats, met with President Aristide yesterday with respect to proceedings initiated by the Center for Haitian Refugees aiming to cancel a 1981 interception law signed by the government of Jean-Claude Duvalier and the U.S. State Department. This law authorizes interception on the high seas of small Haitian boats and arrest of boat people attempting to enter the United States illegally.

Mrs. Rolande Lindor Doronsy, director of the Center for Haitian Refugees and head of the delegation, discussed the matter with American Ambassador Alvin Adams and French diplomat Jean-Raphael Dufour. Mr. Dufour was especially sensitive to the problems of the Haitian refugees, said Mrs. Doronsy.

A representative of the Haitian Organization for the Defense of Human Rights stated that 80 prisoners, out of over 580 locked up in Krome, were freed a few days after the inauguration of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mrs. Doronsy also pointed out that from 16 December until now, no other interception of Haitian boat people on the high seas was made. Other significant signs [of change] to Mrs. Doronsy are the increasing demands for repatriation by the refugees since 16 December. [passage omitted]

Haitian refugees must soon meet with American congressmen to find a satisfactory judicial solution to the thorny problem of the Haitian boat people. The question of Haitian refugees in Miami is an automatic priority for the Aristide-Preval government inasmuch as this Haitian community represents a major economic asset to the country.

President Aristide, during his inaugural address on 7 February, had positively promised the Haitian prisoners abroad that he would consider their case.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Prime Minister Comments on Relations With Cuba

FL0603195091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1816 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, March 6, CANA—St. Vincent and the Grenadines will consider establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba if Havana has major policy changes on areas including "ownership of the means of production," Prime Minister James Mitchell has said. "I told them in the light of the changes in Eastern Europe and if they have any changes in policies, we would be prepared to look into exploring diplomatic relations with them," Mitchell told journalists Tuesday.

The prime minister was reporting on the outcome of last week's Caribbean economic conference in Trinidad and Tobago and meetings he held with non-Caricom [Caribbean Common Market] delegations during his visit. Mitchell explained that some of the changes referred to included Cuba's policies of dealing with political parties rather than with governments and the Cuban Government's "whole attitude with regard to the ownership of the means of production." He also stated his intention to take up a Cuban scholarship offer to Caricom governments and indentified dentistry as the greatest area of need for training.

Mitchell's New Democratic Party government has reversed a policy of the former St. Vincent Labour Party which refused to employ Cuban-trained professionals. Several qualified professionals trained in Cuba are now employed in various government ministries here, including Dominicans who could not find employment back home.

Trinidad and Tobago

Opposition Leader Files No-Confidence Motion

FL0603011291 Bridgetown CANA in English 2154 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, March 5, CANA—Trinidad and Tobago's opposition leader, Basdeo Panday, has filed a motion of no confidence in the government.

Panday has asked the House of Representatives to express a lack of confidence in the government's handling of the crime situation in the country. According to Panday, there has been an increase in the incidence of violent crimes in recent time. The former external affairs minister said an upsurge in violent attacks has been increasingly directed to law-abiding citizens in the privacy of their homes and in their business places.

"These attacks have generated a deep sense of fear, anxiety, and insecurity throughout the population," the motion states. It accuses government of having failed to respond to the critical situation in an effective way.

The Panday-led United National Congress has six members in the House, compared to the government's 26 parliamentarians.

The minority opposition party, the People's National Movement, has four seats in the lower house.

Government Against Sending UN Observer to Cuba

PA0703044191 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0300 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX)—The Mexican Government rejects intervention in the affairs of other countries; Therefore, it abstained from supporting the sending of a UN observer to Cuba to review the human rights situation, it was reported today.

Souces from the Mexican Foreign Secretariat said that Mexico waged diplomatic efforts to prevent a UN observer from being sent to Cuba as proposed by the U.S. delegation.

In addition, the sources rejected that the Rio Group, as a regional organization, supported a UN representative verifying the human rights situation on the island.

The sources voiced their reservations about the actions of the U.S. Government in the Persian Gulf and feel that the U.S. Government is now trying to pressure the government of President Fidel Castro.

In Geneva, during the sessions of the UN Human Rights Commission, the U.S. delegation proposed that an observer travel to Cuba to present a report on the human rights situation in that country.

"Mexico is against this; therefore, it abstained from voting because intervention in the affairs of another nation is contrary to the principles of our foreign policy," the sources emphasized.

Trade Agreement's 7 Points Presented to Senate

PA0403155891 Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Text] Jaime Serra Puche, Mexico's commerce and industrial development secretary, has disclosed to the Senate the principal points which Mexico will present during the free trade agreement negotiations with the United States and Canada.

1. The agreement should free up trade in goods and services and investment, but by strictly complying with the Mexican Constitution.

2. The agreement must be compatible with GATT.

3. Customs tarrifs and duties should be gradually eliminated among the signatories, assuring an adequate transition period that would avoid the imbalance of any economic sector.

4. The elimination of import barriers—other than customs and tariffs—that apply to Mexican exports should take place.

5. Rules and regulations should be negotiated to avoid the trade practice of relabeling goods made in other countries as Mexican and then exporting them, which would undermine the purpose of the treaty.

6. The agreement must have precise rules and regulations to avoid the use of distorting foreign trade subsidies, which would affect competition.

7. A separate chapter should be incorporated on arbitrating controversies to eliminate the Mexican exporter's vulnerability to unilateral measures.

[Begin Serra Puche recording] A treaty which contemplates these seven points will guarantee our nation full access to U.S. and Canadian markets and will contribute to instilling a constant spirit of competition in the Mexican economy. [end recording]

The commerce secretary spoke during the inauguration ceremony of the permanent forum—organized by the Senate—on the trilateral trade agreement negotiations among Mexico, the United States, and Canada. During the event, Senate leader Emilio M. Gonzalez said that this forum will be held in the spirit of respect and tolerance.

[Begin Gonzalez recording] We view this forum as an occasion to nourish and strengthen our interests in the negotiations. We do not see this as a stage for setting for irreconcilable confrontations, which would weaken us. [end recording]

El Salvador

Court Rules Out Electoral Cards for Transactions

PA0703043091 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0306 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The Supreme Court of Justice today declared unconstitutional the requirement of an electoral identification card in order to carry out legal transactions.

According to the Supreme Court, the ruling declared unconstitutional the legislative decree that made compulsory for a person to carry simultaneously the electoral identification card and the personal identification card. Therefore, this means that as of today, the electoral identification card will no longer be a requirement for legal transactions or for concluding contracts of any nature.

[Begin recording] [Unidenified speaker] Basically, this says there is no need for having amended that disposition.

[Second unidentified speaker] It is an abuse that the electoral identification card and the personal identification had to be used together. There was no need to create that. This was just to force people to use this.

The court ruling dated today, 6 March said in its last paragraph:

Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and the last one of Article 2 of Legislative Decree number 559 of the Legislative Assembly are declared unconstitutional. [end recording]

The ruling was promoted by Eduardo Garcia Tovar, a private citizen, who said that the requirement to carry an electoral identification was unconstitutional, as it went beyond the legal requirements and stepped over the national constitution.

Politicians Report 'Irregularities' by Council

PA0703010891 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 6 Mar (NOTIMEX)—A total of 500,000 Salvadorans registered on the electoral lists will not be able to vote on 10 March because the Central Electoral Council (CCE) has not given them their voters' identification cards, it has been reported here today.

Representatives from five of the nine political parties of the country demanded the Legislative Assembly hold an "emergency meeting" to launch a plan that will allow those persons not having electoral identification cards to vote.

The Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the leftist Democratic Convergence (CD), and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN) said they "did not trust" the electoral process due to the use of "obscure mechanisms" on the part of the CCE.

They warned that the "irregularities" committed in issuing documents speak very poorly about the credibility of the municipal and legislative elections and therefore, they demanded the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) to support an emergency plan.

UDN leader Eduardo Calles said that out of a total of 2,576,000 registered voters, only 2,090,000 voters have received their identification cards.

On 4 March, the Legislative Assembly rejected a PDC petition for authorizing the use of personal identification cards and the electoral lists to replace the voters' identification cards.

"We are going to take measures. We do not know yet what these measures will be, but we will not permit any irregularities in these elections," CD leader Ricardo Rodriguez told NOTIMEX.

OAS Concerned Violence May Hamper Elections

PA0503144091 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] OAS Secretary General Joao Clemente Baena Soares has denounced acts of violence and intimidation that may hamper the 10 March elections. In a verbal report to the OAS Permanent Council, Baena Soares noted that, despite problems, all Salvadoran political forces are ready to cooperate to make the elections open and democratic. He said acts of violence and intimidation are at odds with the intentions of the political parties, and this situation may hamper the path toward the elections.

Elections will be held on 10 March to chose 84 deputies for national and departamental districts. Twenty deputies will also be chosen nationwide for the Central American Parliament. The OAS is participating as an observer in 14 Salvadoran departments, with the the consent of the Salvadoran Government, which authorized this mission on 11 January.

Baena Soares described to the Permanent Council some of the difficulties encountered by the OAS observers, chiefly acts of violence and intimidation. He voiced hopes these problems will be solved, however. He made a special reference to the fire at the DIARIO LATINO, which destroyed the newspaper's printing press, noting that this type of action will not help the elections of a country where a civil war has been raging for the past 10 years. He noted his concern for the delay in handing out electoral registration cards and said that up until 7 February, 2,580,593 people had registered to vote. The secretary general added that he hoped the willingness seen on the part of the people to vote will create the conditions so that they can cast their ballots in peace, security, liberty. He added that there should not be any fraud.

Mauricio Granillo, Salvadoran permanent representative to the OAS, asked the observers to pay special attention to the charges, chiefly those made by opposition sectors, which are not even participating in the

elections. He called attention to the fact that the elections will be held in a country at war. For that reason, the observation must be done very carefully, he added.

CCE President Rejects Report

PA0703035191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1216 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Jaime Romero, president of the Central Electoral Council [CCE] of El Salvador, has rejected a recent OAS report which stated that actions of violence and intimidation could cause difficulties during next Sunday's elections. He admitted that he did not yet know about the details of the report. Romero said the report, which was read by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares to the permanent council on 28 February, contains inaccurate information and exaggerated situations, but it will nevertheless be reviewed.

Baena Soares said that actions of violence and intimidation against political forces have been reported in the Salvadoran election process. He said this contradicts the intention of the parties to cooperate in an open and democratic process until the elections are held.

Next Sunday, 10 March, 2.5 million Salvadorans will elect 84 deputies to the Legislative Assembly, 20 of whom will also represent El Salvador at the Central American Parliament. In addition 262 mayors will be elected. A total of 150 OAS observers have been in El Salvador since 11 January with the authorization of President Alfredo Cristiani.

Interview With FMLN's Salvador Samayoa

PA0703003291 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 91

[Interview with Salvador Samayoa, member of the political-diplomatic commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and member of the FMLN delegation to the negotiations with the Salvadoran Government, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Comrade Salvador Samayoa: First I would like to ask you what is the current status of the negotiations between the FMLN and the government, or the Armed Forces, after the latest meetings held in February?

[Samayoa] The current status of the negotiations as of the latest meeting held on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 February is bogged down because the government delegation is adopting very negative and stubborn attitudes. This does not mean that the FMLN feels that there are no possibilities of progress. We think the negotiations will advance. We have no doubts that the negotiations will advance for a very simple reason: the correlation of political and military forces in El Salvador is going to force the Cristiani government and the Armed Forces to negotiate seriously, to make concessions, and to make the significant changes the country needs. This is something I think we have achieved in one way or another as a result of the political and military struggle we have waged for all these years.

Therefore, I have no doubts that through these negotiations we will achieve the dismantling of the entire repressive apparatus of the dictatorship. I would not say any progress was made in the last round of talks; there was none. The government adopted a very negative stand; it was very inflexible. I believe the Armed Forces have misinterpreted things, to say the least. The Armed Forces think that because the United States has freed the aid that was being withheld, or because it has been given some new planes, or because the FMLN has returned some of the anti-aircraft missiles from its arsenals, the FMLN is being weakened.

The military has now reached the conclusion that it does not need to make any concessions and prefers to wait till it is in a better position. I think this conclusion is completely erroneous because the military force and the political force of the FMLN and of all the democratic revolutionary forces of the country are growing everyday, and the government and the Armed Forces will be forced to hold serious negotiations in our country.

[Reporter] Up until today, Samayoa, we have not heard of any specific results of the negotiations. Nonetheless, various government spokesmen have said that the negotiations are progressing well and are advancing. Could you tell us how these negotiations are advancing, or are the talks with the government bogged down?

[Samayoa] I would not like to provide too much detail about the meetings because we are committed to keeping this information confidential. However, we also have a commitment of responsibility toward the Salvadoran people. That is why I feel we must say a few things, because the government is making propaganda as if everything was progressing perfectly well. The government makes it seem as if the negotiations were moving rapidly, we had peace around the corner, and it is a matter of days before there is a ceasefire. The government is saying all that in its propaganda. Yet what it does at the negotiating table is something entirely different.

At the last round of talks, the government had a completely inflexible and very rigid stand. It was actually a setback to the stands of previous months which we thought had been surpassed. We will not let the government get away with that. We will not let the government wage propaganda that everything is going so well, while at the negotiating table, it is hindering the progress of the negotiations.

Just to mention one case, in the last meeting, the government said that a commission is going to evaluate the cases of chiefs and officers who have committed human rights violations. The government said this commission will include members of the Armed Forces. Who is going to believe that, if members of the Armed Forces are present to evaluate the behavior of the Armed Forces

itself, that commission is going to be impartial or independent? That would actually be a mockery of the people and of the negotiations.

We believe that with that type of stand, the negotiations could really get bogged down. We think it is absolutely clear that the commission that is going to evaluate the human rights violations by the chiefs and officers of the Salvadoran Armed Forces should be made up of civilians. It should be an entirely independent commission that is not pressured by anyone and that is not subject to the intimidation of the Army itself. In this type of situation, it is clear that the government must change its stand if it wants to act constructively so that the negotiations can advance. Otherwise, it will just be mere propaganda. We begin to think that the government wants to present a good picture—in view of the upcoming elections—that it is doing everything possible for peace, when it is actually not doing anything for the progress of the negotiations.

[Reporter] Continuing our discussion on the development of the negotiating process, we would like to ask you, Salvador Samayoa, the following question: In the past few weeks there has been criticism about the UN's work, in particular, Alvaro de Soto's work, due to the slowness of the negotiations. What do you think about the criticism of Alvaro de Soto and the United Nations' work?

[Samayoa] It is true that there has been much criticism in the past few days of Alvaro de Soto, representative to the UN secretary general, especially by the United States. Basically, he has been told that he is not expediting the negotiations sufficiently. I believe this criticism is unfounded because all the negotiations have been much more work-intensive and frequent in the past few weeks. If the negotiations do not move ahead, it is simply because the United Nations cannot force them to. Each negotiating side must reach agreements and express resolve. Obviously, these negotiations have not moved faster because of the government, which has rejected most of the important points that the UN proposed in a working document that serves as the basis for the negotiations. We think this criticism has been very irresponsible. We believe that the United Nations—I say the United Nations because it is not only Mr. de Soto, but a full team taking part in this negotiation—is working very professionally and doing its best. What we really need for these negotiations to move ahead faster is for the Salvadoran Government to modify its position.

[Reporter] Some people have even accused Mr. Alvaro de Soto of being biased in favor of the FMLN. What do you think is the reason?

[Samayoa] Yes, indeed, I have heard Dr. de Soto has been accused of being biased toward the FMLN. Frankly, I do not give these charges any importance because according to the people in the Salvadoran Government—these are the ones who spread these stories—everyone is on the FMLN's side. The Salvadoran Government accuses all social forces of belonging to the FMLN. It accuses the press and the church of playing into the FMLN's hands. These gentlemen see everyone as playing into the FMLN's hands. I can understand why they see things that way; they are isolated and feel rejected by everyone. It is in this context that I place the criticism of partiality made against Mr. Alvaro de Soto. Frankly, I do not give this criticism much importance because, as the Salvadoran Government frequently accuses everyone, no one takes them seriously. This is a product of the desperation and the political isolation that the government, the Armed Forces, and the ruling Arena [National Republican Alliance] party are in.

[Reporter] Lastly, Samayoa, the question most Salvadorans ask themselves is what are the true chances of reaching political accords and a cease-fire through negotiation?

[Samayoa] We are very optimistic about the negotiations' outcome. We think the level of political and military struggle we have attained has opened the doors to a true negotiation that is able to bring about profound changes in the country's political sector as well as in the economic sector. This negotiation is able to produce profound changes in what is most important for all Salvadorans: the dismantling of the apparatus of repression and intimidation that the Armed Forces and all its paramilitary structures have in El Salvador. We are sure that through negotiation we will dismantle that entire repressive apparatus so that all Salvadorans may really live in peace, exercise their political rights with freedom, and truly enter a stage in which it will be possible for all economic and social sectors to develop. In this regard we see prospects for a negotiation as being good. The government will try to hinder this—we already know this—but we are sure that with all the people's struggle we will attain very important things for our country. We are optimistic that we will attain this in a relatively short period of time.

[Reporter] Thank you comrade for your important statements regarding the development of the negotiating process. If you have anything else to add or want to send greetings, Radio Farabundo Marti's microphones are yours.

[Samayoa] Last, I would like to send greetings to all FMLN fighters. All the country's political and social sectors are aware that it is the revolutionary weapons and our fighters' struggle that is opening a possibility for changes in this country—possibilities for democracy and peace with justice and dignity for all Salvadorans. The role played by the FMLN fighters is truly decisive in ensuring a fair negotiation and a fair political solution for the country.

War conditions have changed, especially after the November military maneuvers and after all the defeats inflicted onto the Armed Forces, particularly the neutralization carried out against the Salvadoran Air Force. We all remember the 200 Bracamonte Battalion troops fleeing into Honduras. We all remember that when Air Force helicopters and airplanes were brought down by FMLN guerrilla fire, the military situation changed. This made everyone aware that the Army does not have the

slightest possibility of a military victory over the FMLN and this is what has opened the possibility to negotiate. Therefore, we want to send our greetings to the all the FMLN guerrillas who are carrying out this historic role for a change in the country in all the hills, mountains, outskirts of cities, and inside the actual cities. We want to encourage them to continue this firm struggle because we have close at hand the democratic and revolutionary conquests, and we need to march on.

FMLN Commander Rojas on Negotiation Process

PA0603135791 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 27 Feb 91

[Interview with Commander Jesus Rojas, member of the directorate of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), by unidentified station reporter; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] We have here with us our comrade, Commander Jesus Rojas, member of the FMLN directorate. We want to discuss with Comrade Jesus Rojas different aspects of the national political situation. First of all, Comrade Commander Jesus Rojas, in the past few weeks the government's Army has carried out a broad range of operations in areas under our control. This has occurred at a time when the electoral campaign is in full swing and while the negotiating process is under way. What do you think the meaning of this military effort by the High Command is?

[Rojas] It has been the custom, ever since the dialogue and the negotiating process were initiated with the Cristiani administration, for the Armed Forces High Command to carry out operations in areas under our control. In the case of Chalatenango, it is no coincidence that, just a few days before the last round of negoations began in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Atlacatl Battalion, one of the most criminal battalions and known for its history of human rights violations, was deployed against our areas of control. The objective was to give the image that the Army controls the entire territory and is able to maintain a presence throughout the country.

Another objective being sought.... [changes thought] In this round of negotiations, one of the topics that has been under discussion is the cease-fire topic. The government argues that the FMLN does not control any territory, and this is the image that it wants to give.

In addition, it is pursuing another objective related to the present electoral process: to intimidate, to exert pressure by terrorizing towns that the government knows are opposed to the present government's policy because it undermines the interests of the popular masses in El Salvador. Well then, in each of these attempts, these incursions, what they have harvested has been casualties, blows to their military forces. Other similar forces have been deployed in San Vicente, Usulutan, and Morazan in an effort to give the false impression that they are in control, when everybody, all the people know that is not true and that the reality in El Salvador is that there are areas that are truly under FMLN control.

That is why the Army cannot remain permanently in any of those territories. When it has made tried to do this, it has been beaten and wiped out. We have seized the soldiers, made prisoners of them, and forced them to flee into Honduran territory, as occurred with the elite Bracamonte Battalion, which was defeated precisely in this area. Whenever the Atlacatl Battalion passes through or approaches this area where the Bracamonte Battalion was defeated, it does so with great fear, with great nervousness, and it passes through the area with great speed.

[Reporter] Commander, all sectors of society are aware of and concerned about the upsurge in repression and intimidation in the past few weeks, leading up to the 10 March elections. Do you feel there is a connection between the wave of violence and the upcoming elections?

[Rojas] All sectors of society have been outraged by the rising wave of violence and repression carried out by Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] and the military's top command against the opposition in El Salvador, for example, the murder of 15 peasants in El Zapote Canton, the destruction of DIARIO LATINO, the murder of Democratic Convergence militants, and, more recently, the murder of a Nationalist Democratic Union candidate and his wife. There is an effort to create an atmosphere of terrror and to send a threatening message to those people who oppose the current goverment and support the opposition parties.

All Salvadorans must actively reject these actions and must not feel intimidated by the repression. They must strengthen their organizations. Together we will try to meet head-on this campaign of intimidation and terror. The FMLN will not let these cases be forgotten.

[Reporter] Many sectors of society agree that the wave of violence has increased since the arrival of U.S. military aid. How do you feel about this?

[Rojas] As we have repeatedly stated over the past years, U.S. military aid constitutes the chief incentive and motivating force of the more warmongering and militaristic sectors existing within the Armed Forces and the Arena government. We clearly saw that the delivery of airplanes and part of the aid, as well as the promise to send the entire aid package, heartened the Armed Forces' militaristic and warmongering attitude. The Cristiani government's dialogue commission also began to toughen its stance and hamper the process of negotiations from the moment the U.S. Government decided to send the aid.

The attitude on the part of the U.S. Government is helping to hamper the negotiations. The United States is turning into part of the obstacle that is keeping the negotiations from continuing along a positive and successful path.

[Reporter] The March elections are unique because they are taking place in the midst of a process of negotiations

and because sectors like the democratic left are participating in it. What is the importance of the participation of these forces in the 10 March elections?

[Rojas] We have estimated that these elections are taking place amid difficult conditions for the general population. They are taking place amid war, repression, and a campaign of terror against the opposition. We are aware and respectful of the effort being conducted by leftist political parties and political parties with democratic stances in trying to defend the cause of democracy and the struggle for a negotiated political solution despite unfavorable and disadvantageous conditions.

I believe that this election could have been conducted under different conditions if the attitude of the Arena government, the Arena party, and the Armed Forces had been to make progress in the negotiations process and in the discussion of the Armed Forces issue which, despite having been discussed over the past several months, has led to no significant agreements favoring the Salvadoran people, nor has it contributed to the creation of a different set of conditions to those that we have now.

I feel, nevertheless, that the FMLN must clearly point out the unfavorable framework within which the elections will be conducted, but it must also respect and appreciate the democratic parties' efforts and struggles to achieve goals and demands that can work in the Salvadoran people's favor. The FMLN can see clearly that Arena is developing a campaign of lies and falsehoods. It is carrying out a true farce to deceive the people, and it represents war, death, and the country's destruction. To vote for Arena is to vote in favor of war and against peace.

[Reporter] Comrade Commander Jesus Rojas, I would also like to ask you how the FMLN plans to confront this Arena government, which has hardened its position concerning the dialogue, and which has developed a campaign of terror against the electoral opposition's activities.

[Rojas] We will pursue the efforts of the past few years by promoting the negotiations process, seeking a concerted effort by all of the political forces involved to achieve a negotiated political solution to this conflict, while simultaneously continuing to respond to all of the operations that the Salvadoran Armed Forces' High Command has launched against our area. We will defeat the Army's offensive efforts as we have been doing over the past few weeks. We have annihilated Salvadoran Army forces, recovered weapons, captured prisoners including several officers. We will continue to respect our prisoners of war and to surrender them to the Red Cross and humanitarian institutions.

I must clearly inform the Salvadoran people and warn the Armed Forces, however, that we will not allow the High Command to take advantage of this electoral juncture or the negotiation process to attempt to recover control over territories which it has lost, or to attempt to justify its campaign of terror against the people. We will not allow it. We will continue to defend the people's achievements and to discourage the warmongering sectors of the Salvadoran Army who still falsely believe that they are capable of defeating the FMLN. To defend the people and discourage the Army, we must rely on the apparatus that we have built and the people's accomplishments in all fields, including the military.

[Reporter] General Ponce has described the attack on the General Staff as an FMLN attempt to hinder the elections. What do you think of Gen. Ponce's remarks?

[Rojas] His remarks are absurd and ridiculous. An attack on a military position is an eminently military action. The Army is using remarks such as those to cover up, to accuse us, and to hinder the electoral process. They are attempting, in fact, to conceal their inability to prevent our urban military forces or urban commandoes from pouncing on the Army's very heart, on its most privileged positions, such as the General Staff which houses the Army's hierarchy.

They have argued that there are no areas under FMLN control because they have access to those areas. We can likewise say that they have been unable to prevent our presence, even in the vicinity of the High Command's headquarters. I must reaffirm that the FMLN's military actions are directed against the murderous, repressive Army, that they are our way of responding to its murders and bombing of towns, and to its campaigns of terror.

FMLN's Handal Reviews Objectives of Elections

PA0703040391 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Guerrilla Commander Jorge Shafik Handal, a member of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] General Command, has said that the basic objective of the upcoming municipal and legislative elections could be to increase efforts to find a negotiated political solution to the war. The issue under public discussion now must not really be the elections but the efforts needed to find peace through a political path, the guerrilla leader said.

According to Handal, the results of the elections must make the ideas of peace prevail over those that support the path of war as the only solution to the country's crisis.

[Begin Handal recording] The issue under public discussion during this election is one that has been and will always be under discussion beyond the elections, that is, before and after the elections. It deals with the problem of reaching a political, negotiated, and just solution in El Salvador that will really pave the way for a democracy based on the demilitarization of the country and on progress toward social justice in El Salvador, and founded on the respect for human rights.

That is what is really under discussion right now. Based on that, our appeal—an appeal I would make as a member of the FMLN General Command—is that these objectives should be strengthened. We realize that this is

a matter that goes beyond the elections and that through these elections the ideals and goals of the Salvadoran people must achieve a clear victory over those that have promoted and benefited from the war. [end recording]

The guerrilla commander also commented on the considerations the FMLN reviewed to declare a three-day halt to offensive military operations to allow the elections to proceed in a normal manner. On this point, Handal rejected the remarks by some Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] politicians who have claimed responsibility for the guerrilla's decision. The rebel leader, who belongs to the FMLN's dialogue commission, said that the decision to declare a truce was based on a request by the Democratic Convergence, the Christian Democratic Party, and the National Democratic Union.

[Begin Handal recording] A few weeks ago, the FMLN was asked by a group of parties to make decisions that would facilitate the electoral process. We agreed with their views and expanded the truce to one day before and one day after the elections to facilitate the movement of all elements that participate in the elections in the process of voting. We were surprised to see that Arena has wanted to claim responsibility for this, clearly seeking its own political advantage. [end recording]

The FMLN decided to halt its military operations on 9, 10, and 11 March in order not to hamper the development of the elections scheduled for 10 March. In these elections, Salvadorans will choose 84 deputies to the Legislative Assembly and 262 members for municipal councils all over the country. Fierce fighting was, however, reported in the past days in zones under the control of the rebels, where the guerrillas state there will be no voting. In view of this situation, the Central Electoral Council decided to install voting places in alternate municipalities that have a military presence.

Results of Recent Electoral Survey Reported

PA0603225891 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte 1800 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Here is a report that was issued this morning by the Public Opinion Research Institute of the Catholic Central American University with the results of the latest opinion poll on next Sunday's elections.

The report concluded that Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance], the PDC [Christian Democratic Party], and the Democratic Convergence [CD] are the three leading parties. The survey was conducted in 13 Salvadoran departments, where 1,253 people were interviewed.

The institute clarified that this research was conducted at the national level and that therefore its results cannot be used as a guideline for departments or municipalities.

In announcing the results, Engineer Antonio Calles, the institute's deputy director also noted that although there is high interest in voting, there is also a large percentage of people who believe that there could be fraud in the next elections. Another large percentage said that they do not see any party offering specific solutions to their problems.

[Begin Calle recording] When asked what party they would vote for, 28.8 percent said that they would vote for Arena if elections were to take place that day, which was approximately one week ago. In answer to the same question, 14.7 percent said they would vote for the PDC; 7.7 percent for the CD; 3.2 percent for the PCN [National Conciliation Party]; 1.1 percent for the UDN [Natonalist Democratic Union]; 0.5 percent for MAC [Authentic Christian Movement]; and 0.6 percent for AD [Democratic Action]. A total of 27.2 percent answered that they were still undecided, while 15 percent said that they would not vote for any party. [end recording]

Calles said that according to the survey, 40.3 percent of the population believes that there will be fraud in the next elections. Also, 54.3 percent said that they favor a balance within the Legislative Assembly.

Another interesting aspect revealed by this survey is that Arena, the leading party, only has a broad majority of votes in four western departments and in La Libertad Department. However, in the rest of the country, the situation is more balanced with regard to the opposition. In the eastern La Union and San Miguel Departments, the opposition has a slight margin over Arena.

It must also be noted that although the number of voters who have received i.d. cards is higher, there is also a high percentage of people who said they would not vote, and also a high percentage who were still undecided five days before the elections.

Calles mentioned another interesting aspect: Based on the survey, it is possible that in the next municipal elections Arena will only win by a wide margin in four departments, while in the rest of the departments, there will be a close race among the parties and electoral quotients will play an important role.

When Calles was asked why Arena continues to be the party receiving the highest percentage of support from the Salvadoran electorate despite the problems, the economic crisis, and general deterioration, he said that the main reason for this is that although the Arena government has suffered a slight decline, it still remains on top. He added that this can only be explained by the firm support it has received from private enterprise, both with money and publicity in the media, contrary to the previous ruling party, which was displaced by Arena.

These are some of the aspects revealed by the survey conducted by the Catholic University's Public Opinion Research Institute between 23 February and 2 March in 13 of the 14 Salvadoran departments, based on 1,253 inquiries. The margin of error is only 3 percent.

Honduras

Foreign Minister on Dispute With El Salvador

PA0603041891 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Report by Francisco Valeriano Giron]

[Text] Salvadoran Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas has recently said that his country has no plan to leave Honduras isolated or without access to the Fonseca Gulf. Foreign Minister Mario Carias was asked how the Honduran Government truly feels about this and what are its views on the matter, as it has been said that El Salvador and Nicaragua want to close Honduras' access to international waters. Here is the foreign minister:

[Begin recording] [Carias] Regarding the Fonseca Gulf and the discussions at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] at The Hague, I must say that the ICJ has only authorized Nicaragua to comment on whether we have joint ownership or what is the legal status of those waters. Nicaragua already filed a document, which Honduras will answer. Hearings will begin on 15 April, and all the media that can make arrangements to be there are invited to attend. We will carry out a campaign to report the stances of each country starting next week.

It is not really correct to say Nicaragua and El Salvador are agreeing to block Honduras' exit to the sea. Nicaragua has not made a final statement because it will have to hold bilateral talks with us at the joint committee on maritime affairs. As for El Salvador, I want to point out that that country feels we have joint ownership over those waters, and that that gives the three sides equal rights to circulate in the gulf. The ICJ will have to decide whether or not we have joint ownership. If it rules that there is no joint ownership, we will begin the demarcation of the area. The Salvadoran stance has been known since 1986 or 1987, so this is nothing new.

[Giron] Why then did Balladares Soto, Honduran delegate to the ICJ, say this is what El Salvador has in mind?

[Carias] If you take a look at the geography of the gulf, you can see the Salvadoran stance. Once El Salvador declares that it has a 12-mile extension from its coast, and if Nicaragua declares the same thing, these waters flow into the entrance of the gulf, meaning that Honduras does not have sovereign areas in La Bocana and the Pacific Ocean. That is what some sectors are saying. What we must see is that each country has to make its own presentation.

As far as we are concerned, we are making ours in very firm manner. We maintain we have rights in La Bocana and the Pacific Ocean. We have always had coasts in the Pacific Ocean. Honduras states Meanguera Island belongs to it and that, regardless of the decision made on that island, it will always have rights in La Bocana and the Pacific. That is a very strong stance on our part, based on studies that were begun in the past century by Father Vallejos and that we have drafted at the sovereignty and border commission. We will maintain our stance until the ICJ's ruling.

[Giron] What is the Salvadoran stance on the Fonseca Gulf? Does it really plan to block Honduras, or will everything be settled later on?

[Carias] Navigation would in no way suffer because it follows international laws. The 1917 ruling, which El Salvador uses to back up its stance, recognizes that there will always be free navigation. The idea now is to know that Honduras owns part of La Bocana, which is 19 miles long and that because of that it has a corridor to the Pacific Ocean. That can only be defined through an agreement by the sides, and since no agreement was reached, it must be decided through an ICJ ruling.

[Giron] Do you agree with the remarks by Foreign Minister Pacas, to the effect that El Salvador is not planning to block our country's access to the open sea?

[Carias] I do not agree with his remarks. Court rulings always have many nuances. However, when he says that navigation will be affected, I agree with him. That will not affect international navigation to and from Honduran' ports. The matter is deciding what the demarcation point is and which are Honduras' and El Salvador's areas. That is something we have not reached an understanding on. [end recording]

Security Forces Report Murder of Liberal Deputy

PA0603141591 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0226 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 4 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Honduran Public Security Forces (Fusep) sources reported today that Juan Angel Flores, a Liberal Party deputy for the eastern Lempira Department, was murdered last weekend.

The deputy was shot four times in different parts of his body by German Arturo Vasquez. The Fusep report stated that Vasquez and Flores had political and personal differences.

Still alive, Flores was taken to the Eastern Central Hospital, but he died before getting there.

The murderer was arrested by the police and has been placed under the orders of the corresponding court.

Nicaragua

Ortega Highlights FSLN Document on Economy

PA0703025491 Managua Radio Ya in Spanish 0005 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Statement by former President Daniel Ortega on document issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) in Managua—live]

[Text] Nicaraguan brethren: This morning, the National Directorate of the FSLN held a consultative assembly with Sandinist militants of the various sectors of Nicaraguan society. We consulted with them about the current national problems that are closely linked, among other things, to the economic adjustment plan issued by the government.

We have been very clear in saying that throughout this entire process that the government has carried out to implement its adjustment plan, the FSLN has been consulted, as other political forces, economic sectors, and labor unions have been consulted. All we have done is voice our points of view concerning an economic adjustment plan that the Nicaraguan government has issued. In other words, this is not our plan—that must be very clearly understood—and if we see that the proposals are distorted, it is logical that our plan seeks to straighten out what we feel is distorted.

Our stand concerning the national problems is contained in a document that we are making public this afternoon. At this time, we will read the introductory passages which we consider to be the most important ones of the document; later we will also read the demands, and in the newspapers we will publish the entire document.

Position of the FSLN on National Problems:

The fatherland is experiencing critical moments that demand clear positions that will unite the people in the search for stability to strengthen the development of Nicaraguan society.

The FSLN, that united the people in the struggle against the Somozist dictatorship until it was ousted;

The FSLN, that defended the national interests and the people's right to full democracy for the first time in history;

The FSLN, that waged a battle for justice in international forums and organizations and achieved for Nicaragua the place it deserved;

The FSLN, that promoted the Contadora, Esquipulas, and Sapoa peace plans that established the firm bases for the disarmament of the contrarrevolutionary forces that put an end to the war;

The FSLN, that took the U.S. Government to the highest international tribunal of justice so that it would put an end to its policy of force against Nicaragua and pay compensation to the nation for the damage done;

The FSLN, that promoted and respected the people's votes in the elections of 1984 and of February 1990;

The FSLN, that participated in conferences at Rome and Paris to obtain resources for the people;

The FSLN is today duty bound and has a historical responsibility to issue a clear pronouncement concerning the grave situation that the country is experiencing in order to unite the people in the defense of the national interests.

Therefore, we state that the hyperinflation of recent times should be stopped so as to reactivate the national economy. The FSLN is aware that certain adjustment measures are necessary to achieve the gradual stabilisation of the economy, however, this will only be possible if the people's needs are addressed at the same time.

The economic stabilization plan announced by the government contains elements that do not correspond to the special situation of the country, and they break the principle of gradualism that was established in the concerted agreement.

The FSLN National Directorate advised the government in due time that this heavily burdens large sectors of the people and produces instability. The drastic devaluation of the currency causes an exxagerated recessive impact on the national economy, which is contradictory to the gradualism that was incluced in the concerted agreement.

Thousands of industrial, commercial, and agricultural enterprises—particularly the smaller ones, which tens of thousands of families depend on—have been decapitalized overnight and do not have any chance of recovering in a short period of time. This situation will provoke in a short time a generalized bankruptcy and a massive shutdown of enterprises, shops, and small businesses that will entail serious consequences.

The impact of the economic measures announced by the government will increase unemployment levels in the various economic sectors.

In facing this reality, the compensatory measures announced by the government are evidently insufficient to counter this dramatic situation. The destabilization of those Nicaraguan families threatens the nation's stability.

We will now read the demands:

The FSLN demands:

A. In view of the recessive impact of devaluation, the government should immediately implement a special credit plan for industrial, commercial and agricultural and livestock enterprises, and special credit and fiscal facilities to all enterprises to face the current lack of liquidity that could cause many of them to go bankrupt and worsen unemployment.

B. The government should promote effective measures to prevent massive unemployment, and it should promote public investment programs to create new alternatives for stable employment. Special measures should be implemented to protect female workers, a sector which has been disproportionately affected by the crisis and dismissals.

C. In view of the price hikes, the government should guarantee the restoration of the workers' purchasing power to the levels that existed immediately before the implementation of the adjustments.

D. A minimum wage should be established based on a percentage of the basic family basket of (?53) products, in accordance with the national dialogue agreements of 26 October.

E. The scale used to implement the [word indistinct] should be modified; taxes and the tax withholding system should be revised in light of the new conditions created by the stabilization plan. In the same manner, interest rates for bank credits should also be revised.

F. Urgent measures should be implemented to help the most unprotected sectors of the population, such as food assistance programs and programs to supply essential medicines. A special aid program should be implemented for the Nicaraguan Atlantic coast.

G. The university budget should not be reduced and the constitutional right of the people to have an education should be guaranteed.

In addition to the actions that were previously mentioned, we demand that the government should do the following:

A. Reinstate the concerted forum with all the sectors to directly discuss with them the consequences of the program and the measures that should be implemented to absorb the impact.

B. [Seek] an immediate and fair solution to existing strikes and labor conflicts by refraining from the use of the public force and by resorting to dialogue and negotiation.

C. Stop the violence being suffered by peasants and return to its legitimate owners the agriculture cooperatives and state enterprises that have been held up by extremist groups.

D. Truly guarantee the different forms of property in the Constitution of the country.

E. Rapidly and clearly set forth the procedures for the privatization of state enterprises by guaranteeing the participation of workers in their ownership. This right must be respected even in the case of properties that are returned to their owners.

F. Stop the eviction of people from lands and houses, which threaten thousands of families, who were benefitted by the revolution. They should be given their land deeds for free. In addition, tenants must be protected from excessive rents.

G. [Seek] the dismissal of all revengeful officials and the strict compliance of all agreements signed by the government.

H. State banks should immediately be strengthened as a fundamental instrument for economic development and distribution of incomes.

I. [Have] strict respect for the rights of autonomy of the Atlantic coast regions and their authorities.

14. [as heard] We are facing critical times. The government must act with the responsibility and sensibility demanded by the circumstances and the suffering of the people. National stability and the possibility of success of the program depends on this. We call on businessmen and producers to establish reasonable prices for their goods and services. Labor unions [20-second break in reception]... neighborhoods should unite to defend their houses and lands. The FSLN calls on the entire people to strengthen the unity in their organizations and their legitimate leaders to defend with serenity and firmness their fundamental rights. The FSLN calls on all Nicaraguans to strengthen social solidarity in these times of crisis so that we can find a just and national solution to our problems.

Free fatherland or death.
FSLN National Directorate
Signed in Managua, 6 March

Panama

Attorney General Makes Statements at Assembly

PA0603194791 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 1-A

[Text] Attorney General Rogelio Cruz yesterday threatened to "expose the barefaced" of Panama, not only from the previous regime, but also those "in the current government, which has many." He also said before the Legislative Assembly that he has no intention of resigning from his office despite the requests from different sectors.

Cruz requested permission to speak before the assembly and said that 319 bank accounts, amounting to $28.8 million, have been frozen during his term and that, up to February, almost $11 million had been unfrozen. He also said that cautionary measures had been applied to other goods estimated to be worth $15 million.

The attorney general supplied a list of persons who have undertaken procedures to free the frozen accounts. The list included law firms belonging to cabinet ministers and leaders of attorneys' groups. Cruz refused to release the names of the freed accounts' owners saying that law forbids him from doing so.

Rogelio Cruz, who is considered the most polemic of the current government officials, asked the Attorney General's Office's employees to be strong while carrying out their duties and particularly when they "call cabinet ministers, legislators, and high ranking government officials to trial."

Cruz, who has been linked to the board of directors of a bank belonging to the chief of the Cali cartel, Gilberto Rodriguez Orejuela, stated that he has "never had anything to do with any crime and much less with any crimes related to drugs."

He said that during one year in office he carried out a campaign against drugs which brought him risks. I sometimes ask myself whether it is worth my while to carry on and sacrifice my family life for such an "unfair" position in which you only make enemies, he added.

Rogelio Cruz said he is the victim of a campaign of "professional slanderers" and announced that he is planning to present a project to the Legislative Assembly to "increase the penalty," including preventive arrest for that kind of crime, because the lack of it has become a "carte blanche."

The attorney general also said that there are some officials who "avoid their responsibilities and pass the hot potatoes on to others." There is one who should create jobs and another who belongs to the health sector. They never want to talk about their respective sectors, but they do want to state their opinions regarding justice.

Cruz also criticized the Foreign Ministry, which blames the Attorney General's Office for allowing former minister Rodolfo Chiari de Leon to leave the country, as if the Attorney General's Office was responsible for issuing safe-conducts. He also said that in Panama there is more justice than public security.

The attorney general mentioned that it has been said that not a single former official of the previous regime has been tried in 14 months. They forget, however, that in republican history, nobody has been brought to trial in that time.

He said he was worried about the pressure he has been feeling resulting from the case of legislator Elias Castillo, when asked what would happen "if someday there is a need to investigate a deputy of the Christian Democratic Party or Molirena [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement]."

During his speech, Cruz said that the state branches are projecting "the terrible image of having a deadly internal struggle for political space."

The deputies accused Cruz of not being specific enough in his speeches and making the deputies look like they are corrupt. The attorney general should continue his appearance at the Justo Arosemena Palace [Legislative Assembly] on 5 March.

Asked To Identify Officials

PA0603160391 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2308 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] Top government authorities have asked Attorney General Rogelio Cruz to disclose the names of corrupt officials from the current government.

The crisis in the Attorney General's Office appeared to be worsening today when the main topics that concern citizens were still not cleared up. Attorney General Rogelio Cruz showed up before a Legislative Assembly plenum yesterday to answer questions from legislators. He explained a few points, but left others vague. He postponed other points for today.

As for the topic of frozen funds, in a report to legislators, who granted the floor to Attorney General Rogelio Cruz, he said only 2 percent of bank accounts have been released and that the actions taken by lawyers have been according to legal procedures.

Among the law firms that filed actions to have bank accounts released are: Galindo, Arias, and Lopez; Tapia, Linares, and Alfaro; Padilla Beliz and Asociados; Alfaro, Ferrer, Ramirez, and Aleman; Chen, Estrada, and Mora; Julio Harris, Aleman, Cordero, Galindo, and Lee; Troncoso, Lacayo, and Porras; Arias, Aleman, and Mora; Sucre and Sucre; Ana Belfont; and others.

[Legislator Jose Sosa] "On Friday I told some of my party colleagues that I had been notified that some people would try to file accusations here, such as the statements made by the attorney general that there were corrupt ministers and legislators. When legislator Carlos Arellano asked him about names, he did not identify a single one."

To the already evident crisis within the Attorney General's Office, Attorney General Cruz made accusations left and right against some officials of the current government.

[Cruz] "We are going to take a series of actions to unmask the true crooks in this country. We are not only going to unmask the crooks of the previous government, but the crooks of the current government as well, and there are many of them. "

This morning, First Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon talked about the charges of corruption made by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz.

[Arias Calderon] "I think that sometimes desperation is a poor adviser.

[Reporter] "The attorney general speaks of corruption. He said there are officials in the current government involved in corruption. He even said he has 35 charges to file. What is your opinion on this?

[Arias Calderon] "I ask myself why he is coming up with that now. If he had them a long time ago, he should have done his job."

President Guillermo Endara Galimany was also asked about the possibility of having corrupt officials in his government.

[Endara] "If there are corrupt people, I would like to know it, because I am the head of this government. He should identify those corrupt officials.

[Reporter] "What is your opinion on this?

[Endara] "He should identify those corrupt people. If there is corruption in my government I want to eliminate it. If he says there is corruption, he should say where it is.

[Reporter] "Mr. President, yesterday the attorney general said that law firms connected to ministers and legislators have been releasing bank accounts, even those that are related to cabinet members.

[Endara] "Just because a person is a minister, it does not mean that his law firm cannot continue practicing law. I have a law firm, and I know this law firm is also practicing law, even though it has not been involved in a case such as this."

Reaction to Charges

PA0603222991

[Editorial report] Panamanian papers have carried several reports and editorials reacting to charges made by Attorney General Rogelio Cruz during an appearance before the Panamanian Legislative Assembly on 4 March. In his address to the assembly, Cruz charged that many ministers and other officials of the present government were involved in what he implied were unethical activities concerning the unfreezing of questionable funds belonging to members of the former Noriega administration. Cruz released a list of law firms that he said were involved in getting the funds released for usurious commissions.

Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish on 6 March carries a report by Juan Pritsiolas on page one noting that President Guillermo Endara and Vice Presidents Ricardo Arias and Guillermo Ford met with members of the National Foreign Relations Council to discuss Cruz' charges of corruption within the government. Pritsiolas reports that President Endara challenged Cruz to produce the names of the officials involved. Endara is cited: "I am the head of the government, and if there is corruption, I want to eliminate it." The same article cites Vice President Arias Calderon as asking why Cruz has waited until now to report that 35 complaints were filed against government officials, if he has had those complaints for some time. The vice president reportedly said that Cruz is in a position of "desperation" and that desperation is a "poor adviser."

Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish on 6 March carries a 600-word report in which it cites Foreign Minister Julio Linares' "indignant" reaction to Cruz' comments. The report quotes Linares as saying that the attorney general is trying to defend himself from the general outcry against his own venality by "smearing everybody else, and I for one, and not going to permit it." Linares reportedly accuses Cruz of wanting to "smite both Samson and the Philistines." The report says that the foreign minister emphatically denied that his law firm—Tapia, Linares, and Alfaro—was involved in any underhanded activities.

In the same article, Roberto Troncoso, president of the Panamanian Human Rights Committee and a member of the law firm—Troncoso, Lacayo, and Porras—which was also implicated by Cruz, also denied any wrongdoing. He said that Cruz is trying to "divert public attention from the harsh criticism to which he has been subjected because of his questionable actions in the past."

Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish on 6 March states on its front-page "As of Today" editorial column that under the law, the Attorney General's Office is obligated to investigate "immediately" whenever it has knowledge of infringements of the law. The article states that since the attorney general has brought no charges against any government officials, he has shown a lack of objectivity and, "even more censurable," he seeks to use this information as a "political argument against those who are questioning the attorney general's actions."

The "Panama Pulse" column of EL PANAMA AMERICA on 6 March criticizes Cruz. It says: "How low the present attorney general of the nation has sunk!" It accuses Cruz of making "insinuations," and says: "If he has sought by this behavior to rescue his battered reputation and diminished moral authority, he has achieved exactly the opposite." The same issue of EL PANAMA AMERICA carries a front-page report that the questioning of the attorney general by the Legislative Assembly is continuing.

Consul in Hong Kong Allegedly Selling Visas

PA0603182591 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 4 Mar 91 p 35

[Unattributed article: "Raul Adames Sells Visas in Hong Kong for $500 Apiece"]

[Text] Raul Adames, Panama's general consul in Hong Kong and brother to Romel Adames—attorney and member of the Solis, Endara, and Delgado Law Firm—is granting visas to peole who wish to travel to Panama after receiving $500 for his own pocket, as well as the traveller's commitment to purchase a plane ticket at a travel agency in which he has commercial interests.

Over the past two years, Mr. Raul Adames was president of the committee that organized the Expocomer [commercial exhibit] at the Atlapa Convention Center. He has strong ties with the business sectors in Panama and Asia.

We want to bring this to the attention of Foreign Minister Julio Linares, pointing out that our reports originate from travellers who have recently arrived in Panama from Hong Kong and officials of the current government.

Ministry Regrets Delay in Signing UK Agreement

PA0603175391 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 21

[Text] A Foreign Ministry communique released yesterday regrets the postponement of the British mission, which should have arrived in the country on 4 March to negotiate a mutual legal assistance agreement between the governments of Panama and the UK.

The Foreign Ministry said the agreement could have been signed in a short time because it only deals with the problems of drug trafficking and money laundering. The government is interested in cooperating to repress both activities.

After regretting the postponement, the Foreign Ministry said this would allow certain sectors of the U.S. media to continue their disinformation campaign to make it appear as if Panama were not interested in contributing to the repression of the illegal activities.

The Foreign Ministry communique adds that as a result, the delay in the negotiations with the UK will prevent the Panamanian Government from demonstrating its political interest in signing such agreements, whether it be with the UK or with the United States or with any other country to repress the crimes of drug trafficking and money laundering.

PTJ Director Cited on Corruption, Retirement

PA0503161491 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 28 Feb 91 p 23

[Report by Lionel Blaisdell]

[Text] Captain Leslie Loiza, Judicial Technical Police [PTJ] director, has told EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE that Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena lied when he inferred that the cocaine which was destroyed on 27 February at the International Tocumen Airport was not genuine. Attorney General Rogelio Cruz had previously told President Guillermo Endara that the doubt expressed by the customs director regarding the authenticity of the drug that had been destroyed is considered "undue interference that is legally punishable."

Loaiza said: "I have fulfilled my duty. Although corrective measures are implemented for 100 years, nothing will change at the PTJ because the rotten apples remain in the institution."

"I want to retire as soon as possible, because this uncertainty with regard to my position is affecting the community and my detectives," Loaiza noted.

Loziza added that he has been prevented from investigating Attorney General Rogelio Cruz with regard to EL SIGLO's accusations that allegedly link him to the Cali drug cartel.

"I am not authorized by law to do it. We do not have the overall authority to investigate the attorney general; we cannot even investigate a public prosecutor," Loaiza said. He added, however, that the PTJ's draft organization bill broadens its investigating capacity.

The PTJ director said that any member of his institution involved in criminal acts will be dismissed immediately and that it is not a secret that before 20 December 1989 and after this date, dishonest personnel have been uncovered in the institution.

To conclude, Loaza did not deny his wish to retire as soon as possible and stated that his career has been honest and that he has fulfilled his duty.

Fernandez Named New Director

PA0503220791 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 22

[Article by Luis Vejerano]

[Text] The new PTJ [Judicial Technical Police] Director Oswaldo Fernandez took office on 4 March in the presence of Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon, Supreme Court President Carlos Lucas Lopez and other high-ranking officials from the Government and Justice Ministry were also present at the event.

When Fernandez was questioned by EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE, he replied that this appointment was a professional and personal challenge and that he would try not to disappoint the Supreme Court, the president, or the attorney general who had placed their trust in him.

After calling for the cooperation of a conscientious community, Fernandez said that his goal was for his mission at the PTJ to be as open and clean as possible. To reach this goal, he said that he would be strong and energetic in his actions, but at the same time he would be just and even-tempered.

After admitting that this would be a difficult position, Fernandez reasserted his willingness to turn the institution around so as to be considered a civilian and not a military institution. He said that in his opinion, this is the mistake that the institution's administration had been making. Fernandez stressed that he is a man of the law and because of this he will act firmly, but with the necessary evidence in his hands to act accordingly.

With regard to necessary changes to the institution, he said that they would be made as they are needed.

When questioned about his dismissal as a judge in 1987, Fernandez said that he was one of the 25 judges fired during the presidency of Magistrate Marisol Reyes de Vasquez. At that time, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights recommended that the government reinstate in their posts the judges that were unjustly fired.

He emphasized, hwoever, that what is important right now is not arguing over the personality of the new PTJ director, but rather to see what has to be done. Toward

that end, he concluded by reiterating his willingness to act in a firm, equitable, and just manner and to help the Office of the Attorney General and the Judicial Branch in strengthening the administration of justice.

Mexico Accused of 'Blackmailing' for Safe-Conducts

PA0503170591 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Feb 91 p 32A

[Article by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Text] A high-ranking government official, who prefers to remain anonymous, has said that the Mexican Government is "blackmailing" and exerting "substantive pressure" against Panama within the Rio Group, so that safe-conducts are issued to ousted General Manuel Antonio Noriega's cronies who have been in refuge in several Latin American embassies since the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989.

Former military members Heraclides Sucre and Gonzalo Gonzalez are still in the Peruvian Embassy, former deputy Luis Gomez is in the Cuban Embassy, and former Panama National Bank General Manager Rafael Arosemena is in the Mexican Embassy.

The source said: "The pressure Mexico is exerting is so great that it is trying to isolate Panama from the several Latin American blocs."

The source labelled Mexico's conduct with regard to Panama as "hypocritical" because it wants to appear it is spearheading a transparent policy; however, it seems to forget that at one time it supported Noriega himself.

The government official claimed that the Mexican authorities' policy is "inconsistent," as it condemns Panama but has nothing to say about the United States, which was the invader.

With regard to Rafael Arosemena, who is accused of misappropriating at least $20 million from Panama's National Bank, the government source said that Mexico granted him asylum after Panamanian authorities had already drawn up a case against him.

The source added: "As far as we are concerned, it is the Mexicans who have violated the Caracas convention, because they granted asylum to a person who was already under investigation for embezzlement of public funds.

The relations between both nations are at their lowest level since Arosemena was given asylum and President Endara said that the Mexican Government "is a result of mere electoral frauds."

The source also said that several of Noriega's cronies, who are exiled in Mexico, are exerting influence there against Panama. The source mentioned pro-Noriega Democratic Revolutionary Party activists Ramiro Vasquez and Nils Castro, who are currently in Mexico.

The source concluded, saying: "They have lost power; therefore, they are trying to harm Endara's image."

Fenasep: U.S. Wants To Keep Troops in Country

PA0503161591 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1713 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Panama City 3 Mar (DPA)—The National Federation of Association of Public Employees, (Fenasep) issued a communique today which says that the U.S. invasion 14 months ago was not to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega, but rather to maintain control over the Panamanian territory thereby guaranteeing U.S. military domination over Latin America by means of its bases in the canal area.

The Fensaep, which is holding its national congress this weekend, claims that all the arguments used by Washington to intervene in Panama now carry little weight given that drug trafficking still continues. Meanwhile Panama is still waiting for the promised U.S. economic aid.

The union organization also accused President Endara's government of implementing "unpopular" policies demanded by the International Monetary Fund that translate into massive dismissals, attempts to modify the Labor Code and the Social Security Fund law, and efforts to privatize state run companies.

The communique adds that currently "there is a terrible fear in the government offices and all the workers pray to Saint Martha in order to keep their jobs and not receive a pink slip."

The communique also disclosed that only five of the 47 public employees associations affiliated to Fenasep are currently active. Therefore, the members are requested to "be brave," and to come out and participate in order to stop the government's "irrational policies."

Argentina

Gonzalez Says Condor-2 Prototype Never Built

PY0603133691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1759 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (EFE)—Argentine Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez said in Cairo today that his country never built the Condor-2 ballistic missile that was supposed to have been built with Iraq and Egypt, but only developed the technology for it. The research to develop such a weapon has been totally halted by Carlos Menem's government, Gonzalez said during a news conference. The minister denied the existence of any cooperation agreement with Arab countries to develop nuclear weapons.

Erman Gonzalez met with his Egyptian counterpart Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib to discuss matters of common interest regarding the Persian Gulf crisis in which Argentina participated with two corvettes.

Gonzalez said: "Argentina has officially decided to totally abandon any such research or development of technology for war purposes."

"Argentina's missile program is restricted to the development of technology, meteorology, atmospheric studies, and medical research," the minister said.

Gonzalez denied that Argentina has sold arms to any Arab country stating that his country "is more interested in peace than in war." Gonzalez added: "We are determined to make Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's statement on clearing the Mideast region of the production of nuclear or atomic reactors for belligerent purposes come true, and we contemplate cooperating to that effect."

In the United Arab Emirates the Argentine minister will attend ceremonies to relieve one of his country's corvettes by another that will bring food and medicine for the Kuwaiti people, in keeping with agreements made with the United Nations.

Erman Gonzalez told EFE: "Our contingent experienced no problems during its stay in the Gulf, where it helped enforce the economic embargo decreed by the UN Security Council."

About the commitment to send a military contingent to the Gulf during the past crisis, Erman Gonzalez affirmed: "Important historical ties link us to the Arab nations; therefore, we made a commitment to cooperate for the most rapid liberation of Kuwait."

The minister indicated that "the Persian Gulf crisis has economically affected our country a great deal, causing the loss of important markets for our products, particularly our agricultural products."

Accompanied by the Navy Joint Staff Chief Jorge Ferrer and other Argentine military chiefs, Minister Erman Gonzalez departed for Damascus, where he will meet with his Syrian colleague and be briefed on the conclusions of the Arab foreign ministers meeting in that capital.

'Painted Faces' Leader Predicts 'Upheaval'

PY0703000391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1327 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (EFE)—Colonel Mohamed Seineldin, the leader of the most recent military uprising in Argentina, has predicted that "a political upheaval" will take place in the country. He urged his followers to "pray, reflect, and analyze."

In a letter published today by the Buenos Aires newspaper PAGINA 12, Seineldin stated that the bloody rebellion that was repressed on 3 December was "an heroic uprising."

Seineldin, a 58-year-old Catholic nationalist, sent the letter to nearly 400 "Painted Faces" officers and NCO's who are being charged with participating in the rebellion in which 12 military and five civilians died and 50 others were injured.

The newspaper reports that "Seineldin's message was read to the rebels who are being held at the Magdalena Military Prison, some 100 km south of Buenos Aires, where the letter was taken by the Painted Faces' internal messenger service."

Seineldin, who also led the uprising at the Villa Martelli garrison in December 1988, is being held at the Caseros Prison in Buenos Aires, having been sentenced to indefinite imprisonment along with six other "Painted Faces" officers.

He pointed out that the latest uprising "was a warning and a prediction that if the problem of domestic and external defense is not solved, a political upheaval will take place as is already occurring and it is expected to continue in the future. He said: "Everyone, including those who repressed us, knows that in compliance with a plan orchestrated abroad, the Armed Forces, and especially the Army, must be weakened so that any power can do what it wants with our dear fatherland."

Seineldin said that his followers "were unfairly sentenced to imprisonment, but this was God's will and we must accept it."

He said that in the future the rebels officers "will represent living proof of the true National Army."

Finally, Seineldin suggested his followers to "pray, reflect, and analyze, in order to overcome our weaknesses," because "this will help the Argentine Army and our comrades to survive."

Cost of Living Increase Totals 27 Percent for Feb

PY0603222491 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 6 Mar 91 p 1

[Text] (DYN)—The cost of living, as measured by the consumer price index, rose 27 percent in February, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) announced yesterday. Last month's price hike brings the rise in consumer prices so far this year to almost 37 percent.

February's inflation is the first two-digit monthly price rise since September last year, and the figure of 27 percent is the highest rise in prices over one month since the hyperinflation of last March.

INDEC also reported that wholesale prices rose 37.9 percent in February, while construction costs grew by 34.7 percent.

Among consumer prices, transport and communication costs showed the highest rise, going up by almost 35 percent. The only prices to fall were those of fruit, which ended the month down 5.7 percent.

Correction on Bank Reserves Increased

PY0603152691

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Bank Reserves Increased To Stabilize Currency," published in the 6 March Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 20-21:

Page 20, column one, paragraph one, second sentence, make read: ..."the removal of 2 billion australes," will be.... (correcting amount)

Column one, paragraph six, only sentence, make read: ...would be an internally originated expansion of the.... (rewording)

Column one, paragraph eight, only sentence, make read: ..."even though the expansion of the monetary base, which is caused by the fiscal imbalances, is reduced by 50 percent, market agents may.... (rewording)

Bolivia

President Backs Accused Interior Minister

PY0703034891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0215 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Excerpt] La Paz, 6 Mar (EFE)—The Bolivian Government today reported that the U.S. Embassy in La Paz has denied having disseminated remarks on alleged payments made by drug traffickers to Interior Minister Guillermo Capobianco.

THE MIAMI HERALD on 4 March quoted unidentified U.S. officials as charging Capobianco and General Felipe Carvajal, commander of the Bolivian Police, with having received "payments from major Bolivian drug trafficking organizations" until recently.

The Bolivian Foreign Ministry today published a letter addressed to Capobianco in which it reports that U.S. Ambassador Robert Gelbard was summoned on 4 March to be questioned "about the truthfulness" of THE MIAMI HERALD report. The letter says: "Ambassador Gelbard stated that he did not make any such remarks and that he did not have any information about any official of his diplomatic mission being the source of the report."

Capobianco announced on 5 March that he was planning to take the matter to a U.S. court to identify the source of the report and, in any case, to establish the degree of responsibility of THE MIAMI HERALD.

Capobianco noted today, however, that on 7 March he will send a letter to THE MIAMI HERALD editorial staff to clarify the matter. The letter will include the note he received from the Foreign Ministry on the conversation held by Foreign Minister Carlos Iturralde with the U.S. ambassador. Capobianco said: "Based on these factors, we will make a new decision."

After meeting with President Jaime Paz Zamora, Capobianco today released a letter in which the other members of the Bolivian cabinet convey to him their solidarity "in the face of unfounded press reports published in the U.S. media without citing any source."

The letter, which was signed by Minister of the Presidency Gustavo Fernandez and was sent in the name of Paz Zamora, says: "We are sure (...) that the actions you have undertaken to safeguard your personal honor, dignity, and integrity will be instrumental in clarifying beyond any doubt these speculative reports." [passage omitted]

Brazil

Two Journalists Missing in Southern Iraq

PY0703014091 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] President Fernando Collor has asked acting Foreign Minister Marcos Azambuja to activate the Brazilian embassies in Europe, the United States, and the Persian Gulf in the effort to locate two Brazilian journalists who were in southern Iraq to cover the revolt against the government of Saddam Hussayn.

The newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO reported today that the names of the two missing Brazilian journalists have been included on the list of persons missing in the war. This means that the allied military command will demand the release of the two Brazilian journalists along with all the other prisoners of war.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 0048 GMT on 7 March carries a report on the same topic that identifies the two

missing Brazilians as "reporter William Waack and photographer Helio Campos Mello."]

Rezek Interviewed on Foreign Policy Issues

PY0503150091 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 91 p 8

[Interview with Foreign Minister Francisco Rezek by O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO correspondents Oliveiros S. Ferreira and Antonio Carlos Pereira; place and date not given]

[Text] [O ESTADO] Does not the end of the war in Iraq open a new chapter in Brazil's foreign policy?

[Rezek] I would not say the end of the war means that, although only now can we fully assess the lessons of the war. The beginning of the crisis to a certain extent brought the pressure of history on the Brazilian Government, demanding that, in view of its legitimacy, the government state its national interests within the foreign policy framework.

[O ESTADO] Would not the crisis have allowed Brazil to project itself before the northern powers, thus providing access to the First World?

[Rezek] We could not try to achieve access to the First World to the detriment of certain values, especially legal values, which the Brazilian Government truly cherishes.

[O ESTADO] Would you say, then, that the coalition sacrificed those values?

[Rezek] No, they did not. At least most of the members of the coalition did not. Had Brazil enjoyed a political and economic situation similar to that of coalition members, we would have undoubtedly taken up arms with them, rather than simply granting support to the UN Security Council discussions. We would have also taken up arms to implement by force the Security Council resolutions.

[O ESTADO] What principles would Brazil have gone against had it adopted a different stance?

[Rezek] It would not have gone against principles. I believe the government would probably have had great difficulty in trying to explain the reason for its military presence in the Gulf to the Brazilian people.

[O ESTADO] How about a humanitarian presence?

[Rezek] Regarding humanitarian aid, Brazil clearly told the UN secretary general and the International Committee of the Red Cross that it was willing to participate in this type of action if necessary. That was not all....

[O ESTADO] What did Brazil do when England requested this type of aid?

[Rezek] England made an unofficial "no paper" inquiry to find out what Brazil's attitude would be if a huge hospital, with a team of some 500 people, were set up in Saudi Arabia to assist wounded prisoners of war. This turned out not to be necessary, however, because the course of the war did not cause the allied forces to have to treat a large number of wounded prisoners of war.

[O ESTADO] The energy supply problem is one of Brazil's weak points. Would not this have been a good enough reason for Brazil to regard its effective participation in the region—in which, for better or worse, our energy supply problems could have been settled—as a vital interest?

[Rezek] The government would have had a difficult time convincing the people of something the government itself was not convinced of. Not a single member of government believed that our participation in the military coalition would guarantee future oil supplies.

[O ESTADO] There seems to be great trend which more or less amounts to the following: "Whoever did not participate in the war will not be welcomed in the new distribution of oil."

[Rezek] No, oil is not something that Brazil lacks. It was never short of oil even from the beginning of the crisis. Several countries are offering oil, and we are diversifying our purchases to avoid having only one source. For example, we are holding talks with Mexico. We were never threatened by an oil shortage because it was always quite clear that we would have large supplies.

[O ESTADO] Based on your rationale, Europe should have not have been involved since there was enough oil.... Do you not think the Brazilian Government was rather short-sighted, due to the Third World mentality inherited by this government or previous policies regarding Iraq?

[Rezek] There was definitely no burden of that sort. Everyone knows that the president of the Republic and I have no ties with the past. Everyone knows that the foreign policy secretary general definitely does not share what used to be regarded as Itamaraty's Third World tendency. Europe's stance is different from ours: The European governments feel they have a greater responsibility to participate in certain international issues—and the economic factor has a lot to do with this.

[O ESTADO] Then it is a matter of might over right.

[Rezek] The Gulf crisis is quite simple. In August a unilateral action took place, an action characterized by disrespect and absolute simplicity and which was openly hostile to basic principles of international law. It has no connection with the Palestinian problem, which is much more complex.

[O ESTADO] Has Brazil's stance throughout the crisis jeopardized our country's future relationship with Arab countries that joined the coalition?

[Rezek] By no means. Listen, we do not depend on any bilateral commercial agreement linked to this problem. That is why I insist on stating that Brazil's position was

not determined nor influenced by a desire to resume bilateral trade with Iraq. The crisis has proved that. In the scope of possible fronts in the field of international trade, no partner is vital to Brazil. Obviously, the case of the United States should be viewed separately. Brazil's bilateral relationship with Iraq definitely did not contribute in the slightest to determining Brazil's stance.

[O ESTADO] High-level Brazilian Government circles suspect that, after the overwhelming victory of the allied forces, the United States is going to pressure the Brazilian Government on the transfer of sensitive technology. Would relations with Washington be conditioned to this U.S. desire to prevent another Saddam Husayn from suddenly appearing?

[Rezek] They could be, however, they would not talk about exerting pressure. It would be a matter of simply exercising a right, the right to not transfer technology. We must point out, however, that the United States is being cooperative in this field. Additionally, the U.S. Government does not really understand Brazil's "centralism." Although we refuse to adopt the ridiculous position of proclaiming ourselves the leader of Latin America, we must admit that Brazil's positions have great influence over neighboring countries....

[O ESTADO] Basically, however, we are dealing with the nuclear issue. Will U.S. pressure affect the nuclear submarine program?

[Rezek] Brazil will do its best to develop this project because we are convinced that it is not out of line with our convictions about the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

[O ESTADO] Very well, but will it not it harm our relations with the United States?

[Rezek] If the U.S. Government—whose thorough understanding of Brazilian projects is important for the development of our technology—"has a quarrel" with the building of a nuclear-powered submarine, we will have to negotiate and perhaps give up the project.

[O ESTADO] Give up the idea of building a nuclear submarine?

[Rezek] Depending on the cost-benefit relationship, the idea will not be given up. We must analyze, however, whether to insist on building the submarine against the will of a country that can transfer high technology to us at reasonable prices.

[O ESTADO] That is the essence of the issue. What is your opinion of the cost-benefit relationship?

[Rezek] I believe we will benefit more from other aspects of high technology. I wonder whether a specific method of moving a submarine justifies the renunciation of other types of technological assistance that we hope to receive in the short term.

[O ESTADO] This new position in relations with the United States and the transfer of technology would not happen to be linked to the bankruptcy of Brazil's materiel industry?

[Rezek] The Brazilian economic crisis is affecting this sector more than any other. The high-technology techniques Brazil is trying to obtain are partially related to our defense system. We must remember that we cannot imitate Costa Rica's example (the country dismantled its Armed Forces in the 1940's during the administration of Pepe Figueres). For obvious reasons, Brazil cannot neglect its defense or its military system, although we know that the government has already given up the idea of building a nuclear bomb.

The list of high-technology techniques we want to obtain from the United States consists mainly of developing civilian technology related to the immediate solution of social problems.

[O ESTADO] There is a perception in European diplomatic circles accredited to Brazil that the Brazilian diplomatic position has not changed, that we still treat Europe with the resentment and arrogance of a Third World country.

[Rezek] I have perceived some insinuations in that respect, particularly from diplomats of governments that are primarily concerned with the problem of the foreign debt. These sectors have been calmer in the past few days. I insist, however, Brazilian language today is far from using that challenging and resentful Third World tone. It is important to note that Brazil is basing its debt negotiations on orthodox principles; we commit ourselves only to what is feasible. We now see a light at the end of the tunnel. International bankers have reluctantly accepted our propositions that we will only accept those commitments that we are able to fulfill and that we will pay substantial portions of our overdue debt. That is where we found the point of equilibrium.

[O ESTADO] Would you say that the series of concessions in various fields (technology, agreement with creditors, etc.) conforms to a policy of concessions?

[Rezek] No. The concessions were reciprocated. In the political field there is nothing more eloquent than the Gulf crisis to show that we are not just giving away concessions. We do not enjoy giving away concessions....

[O ESTADO] It is not a matter of enjoying it, it is the need! They are the constraints of the sociology of hardship.

[Rezek] We do not enjoy giving away concessions, nor has the sociology of hardship forced us to make concessions. Each day that passes I am more convinced that the Brazilian Government has a uniform way of thinking about foreign policy.

[O ESTADO] Changing the subject, how is the Americas Initiative, which was proposed by President Bush, doing?

[Rezek] We are working on two fronts. The first front consists of a Southern Cone common market agreement between Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil that will be signed at the end of March. The second is the Americas Initiative. The four countries that will sign the common market agreement are discussing the initiative with the United States. The talks should concern four basic pillars—trade, investment, foreign debt, and technology transfer—but because of a U.S. refusal, matters pertaining to technology and the foreign debt are discussed only on a bilateral basis.

[O ESTADO] Will a connection between the Southern Cone common market and the initiative be worked out soon?

[Rezek] I do not know. It will depend on how the initiative develops. It is also important to see how other parallel mechanisms like the Andean Pact and the Central American and the Caribbean cooperation mechanism are doing. The initiative did not consider a common market, but a free trade zone. If regional common markets (Southern Cone, Andean, Central American and the Caribbean) succeed, we will have something much more solid in the region than what the initiative proposes.

[O ESTADO] You spoke about the need for a defense system. Considering the influence your ministry had in equipping the Navy in the (?1910's), would it not be appropriate for the Foreign Ministry to awaken society and Congress to the idea of the need for a Brazilian defense system?

[Rezek] It would be natural in any country for the Armed Forces to nurture a theory such as the need for defense forces. The idea, however, carries little weight in Congress and the population when the Armed Forces are the ones to speak of it. When the theory is supported by the population and diplomatic circles, success seems much more assured. This is due in part to the tradition of the Foreign Ministry, which enjoys great credibility in Congress.

[O ESTADO] Until last year, Brazilian foreign policy was trying to turn Brazil into the leading Third World country. In the Collor government, however, the program seems to have been reversed. What are the guidelines given by Itamaraty to facilitate inclusion into the First World?

[Rezek] Long before the installation of the new government and, as far as I can remember, the term Third World has related to the economic situation of a member country. Not just political will is necessary to become a First World country, it is also necessary to give up the Third World policy of resentment and challenge, to give it up not just because it is reproachable but because it is ineffective. If the reproach is debatable, the ineffectiveness is obvious to the eyes of any observer.

To reject the Third World and adopt a more mature policy of communications with countries that can more resolutely help our development process depended on a political determination and that determination was forged in the very beginning. To give up the category of developing countries to join the developed countries, to leave the group of countries with unstable economies to join the group of post-industrial countries demands more than political will; it demands an intensive use of energy to lead the country to development. According to the most optimistic theories, it demands a full term of government and probably, more than that. It is necessary to take one route and not give it up, to begin a process that admits no return.

What happens outside rejects all types of ideological competition. It has been proven that there is only one good economic proposal—that of competition, of free economy. There is no reason to waste time in discussing that type of problem. It is just a matter of selecting methods that will rapidly lead to accelerated and intelligent development. In Brazil it has not been easy to achieve that objective due to the existence of an inflationary process that is difficult to eliminate. The adoption of correct economic measures is verified by the absence of alternatives from the opposition. The opposition has no alternative proposal.

[O ESTADO] Does not the president's desire for a rapprochement with the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] annoy you? (laughs)

[Rezek] No. The PSDB is a party that deserves my well-known admiration because of the values it advocates. I am not experiencing the annoyance invented by your wickedness.

[O ESTADO] What is Brazil's current image abroad?

[Rezek] By the end of March I will be traveling to Europe where there are strong movements linked to the human rights issues. I would like to prevent certain mistakes. The government has achieved very important results over the past few months—there is no more mention of Indians, of the tropical forest, or of burned-out land in the Amazon region. There is less talk about impunity for crimes related to land and the forest. These are issues where political determination and a minimum of resources have had immediate effects.

When we talk about problems affecting children from the outskirts of the cities, however, we are talking about the main Brazilian social issue. In this field, the government's political will, regardless of how strong it is, cannot work a miracle in a few months. This is a sector where we cannot act without resources, and foreign organizations are as well aware of our lack of resources as we are. A state policy cannot be implemented without sufficient resources; social habits cannot be changed overnight. What worries me the most regarding the issue of violence against children is the fact that there are some social sectors (not centralized in the cities) that develop an attitude of tolerance, if not of applause, for certain criminal actions in the belief that other types of criminal actions are being prevented. In addition to the

criminal responsibility, we cannot just put responsibility for this situation on individuals, but on the social environment where there are no more scruples.

I think this problem of children will serve as negative news abroad against Brazil over the next few months. As I understand it, if impunity for these murderers has to do with the complacence of the social environment, the problem is much more serious than we can imagine and than what foreign observers can suppose.

Chile

Leigh Accepts Responsibility for Junta's Abuses

PY0703033091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0147 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Santiago, 6 Mar (EFE)—Retired General Gustavo Leigh Guzman, former Air Force commander and former member of the Chilean Government junta, said today that he accepts his responsibility for human rights violations that took place during the military regime.

Leigh admitted in an interview on Chilean state television that the Armed Forces did not cooperate with the judicial branch, as is pointed out in the report by the commission headed by Raul Rettig on human rights violations that occurred in Chile during the nearly 17 years of General Augusto Pinochet's military government.

Leigh, 70 and retired, participated in the 11 September 1973 coup that overthrew Salvador Allende's constitutional government and was a member of the government military junta until 24 July 1978, when he was dismissed by Pinochet for proposing to shorten the term of the military regime.

Leigh—whom state television characterized as a military "hawk" because, on the day of the coup, he spoke of "wiping out the Marxist cancer"—commented on human rights violations during the military regime, saying: "I have never avoided my responsibilities, and I will never hide behind my subordinates."

Leigh said: "I am responsible for everything that the Air Force did and did not do during the period in which I had the honor of being its commander." (August 1973-July 1978)

The report by the commission presided over by former Radical Senator Raul Rettig charges that the Air Force (FACh) is responsible for conducting war trials [consejos de guerra], for torturing political prisoners at the FACh War Academy, and for the disappearance of dissidents in cooperation with the Armed Forces "Joint Command."

Some of these facts were reported by former FACh Corporal Andres Valenzuela, who deserted and sought political asylum in France after testifying.

Asked if he could have avoided some of this, Leigh said: "I prevented other things, but there were mistakes made due to a lack of control and other mistakes for which I am culpable in full conscience and responsibility."

In 1988 civilian Judge Carlos Cerda tried General Leigh and 40 other officers for the disappearance of 10 communist leaders, but the Supreme Court acquitted them without comment based on the 1978 amnesty law.

Regarding the situation of the judicial branch under the military regime, which is harshly criticized in the Rettig report, Gustavo Leigh said justice at that time "was greatly inconvenienced because it did not have the means to investigate, did not have the means to conduct an in-depth investigation, and did not get any cooperation." Leigh admitted that "the Armed Forces and the police" did not cooperate with the courts.

Gen. Leigh also admitted that Pinochet's secret police, the National Intelligence Directorate (Dina), "was created by the government junta but followed the orders of only one of its members (Pinochet)."

Leigh, who has recovered from a terrorist attack that occurred on 29 March 1990 in which he lost his right eye, said he did not know where the bodies of the 957 prisoners who were arrested and disappeared—as reported by the Rettig report—might be buried. These 957 cases are some of the 2,279 victims of human rights violations over nearly 17 years of military dictatorship.

Leigh Comments on Abuses

PY0703040091 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0255 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] General Gustavo Leigh, former Air Force [FACh] commander in chief, has said that during the military regime the courts did not have the means to investigate because the Armed Forces and police did not cooperate. Leigh added that he is responsible for everything that the FACh did and did not do during the time he was FACh commander.

[Begin recording] [Leigh] I am responsible for everything that the Air Force did and did not do during the period in which I had the honor of being its commander. Everything else would be unnecessary.

[Reporter] Could you have prevented the occurrence of some situations?

[Leigh] I prevented many things, but I did not prevent some other things because of my own mistakes, because of a lack of control, or because of mistakes for which I am responsible with full conscience. I am the only one to blame for what the FACh did during that period.

[Reporter] The Rettig report says the Dina [National Intelligence Directorate] followed orders from the Army commander in chief. Can we then deduce that General Pinochet was the head of the Dina and was aware of its actions?

[Leigh] I do not want to comment on Mr. Pinochet or any other institution. The Dina was created by the government junta but later followed orders from only one of its members.

[Reporter] What is your opinion of people's comments that Chile would not have suffered the problem of the disappearances if the courts had fulfilled their duties?

[Leigh] I do not agree with that opinion. The courts have a long tradition of integrity and honesty. I think the courts were greatly inconvenienced during the military regime because they did not have the means to investigate, did not have the means to conduct in-depth investigations, and did not get any cooperation.

[Reporter] Cooperation from whom?

[Leigh] From the Armed Forces and the police.

[Reporter] Relatives of the arrested and missing people want to know where the remains of their relatives are. Do you know where they were buried?

[Leigh] I do not know where any arrested and missing prisoners from the Air Force or any other institution could be. [end recording]

Politicians React Positively to Aylwin Speech

PY0603030491

[Editorial Report] Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish at 2200 GMT on 5 March, in its regular newscast, carries reports on reactions to President Patricio Aylwin's speech on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report on human right violations.

Included in the reactions is a two-minute report stating that the Independent Democratic Union (UDI) has said that President Aylwin's speech is "a positive step toward national reconciliation." The report also quotes UDI Secretary General Joaquin Lavin as saying: "All society is in some way responsible when something like what was pointed out in the Rettig report occurs in a country. In our opinion, the main responsibility for human rights violations rests on the shoulders of those who destroyed Chilean democracy; that is, the Popular Unity government and the extremist groups supporting it."

In a one and a half-minute report, UDI Deputy Andres Chadwick is quoted as saying: "President Aylwin's statement that he respects the 1978 amnesty law was positive." Chadwick, however, rejects the president's interpretation that this law "should not be an obstacle to continuing court investigations" into human rights violations, and he stresses that this "is a personal opinion of the president of the Republic that is not shared by lower courts or the Supreme Court because the interpretation that this law was given implies that court investigations will not proceed." Chadwick concludes that "the purpose of the amnesty law was to achieve social peace" and further investigations "could somehow hinder the basic purpose of achieving social peace."

A half-minute report quotes Alberto Espina, National Renewal Party bloc leader in the Chamber of Deputies, as saying he "agrees with Aylwin's message on human rights violations" during the military regime; he adds that "the violence must be analyzed within the historic circumstances in which they occurred and this framework begins before 11 September 1973."

Another half-minute report quotes Chamber of Deputies President Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo as saying that President Aylwin's speech is a call for Chileans "to understand the truth;" he notes that "the report is categorical with regard to the participation of the Supreme Court, the National Intelligence Directorate, and the National Intelligence Center."

Minister Minimizes U.S. Daily Article on PCCh

PY0703005391 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Enrique Krauss has minimized the importance of a report by the New York daily NOTICIAS DEL MUNDO [as heard] in which it states that the Communist Party of Chile [PCCh] has 300,000 followers and a budget of nearly $9 million with which to organize guerrillas in our country.

Krauss talked to reporters about this and other issues, such as the proposed exemption from military service for children of victims of human right violations as suggested by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Krauss said that this measure would have to be approved through a law, adding that the issue will be analyzed shortly.

Asked about the report by the U.S. Daily NOTICIAS DEL MUNDO about the rearming of the PCCh, Krauss said:

[Begin Krauss recording] The report is published by a little-known newspaper. Journalists know that this daily is not an important U.S. newspaper. Besides, the content of the article is rather imaginative in our opinion because it suggests that the PCCh is capable of a military mobilization that doubles the number of votes that it obtained in the last election. It is rather speculative. In any case we have asked our diplomatic mission in the United States to send us a concrete report on the matter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Plot Against Officials Stopped; 2 Arrested

PY0603222391 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The police have discovered a subversive plan to eliminate senior officials of the judicial branch following the arrest of two university students who allegedly belong to the Manuel Rodriguez Front and who were involved in the murder of Carabinero Osvaldo Reyes.

The chief of the Carabineros Metropolitan Zone has released an official communique indicating that university students Patricio Ortiz Montenegro and his brother Pedro Ortiz Montenegro were planning to hold-up the A13 High School, on 10 de Julio and Lira Streets, when they were arrested by Carabineros.

Specialized Carabineros personnel have reported that the Ortiz brothers belong to the Manuel Rodriguez Front and participated in the following attacks: On 17 October 1990 the two individuals, carrying hand guns, stole a Chevrolet Chevette taxi on Centeno and Sargento Aldea Streets. On the same day they and other individuals used the stolen taxi in a hold up of the (?BID) Bank branch in Vitacura. During this attack 4.224 million pesos were stolen.

On 6 December 1990 the two brothers and another individual detonated a bomb at the McDonalds restaurant during the visit of the U.S. President. On 15 December Pedro Ortiz detonated a bomb which caused some material damage at the Mormon Church in the Conchali District.

The report also indicates that according to documents seized from the Ortiz brothers, the police have discovered operations called the Balance and the Cloak and Dagger. These operations were to have been conducted soon against senior officials of the judicial branch. The police did not give any more details about the subversive plans but it is believed that they are aimed at members of the Supreme Court. The brothers have been placed under the jurisdiction of the Second Military Court of Santiago.

Statistics Institute Reports Feb Inflation Rate

PY0503212291 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Summary] The National Statistics Institute has reported that the February inflation rate was 0.1 percent. The inflation rate for the first two months of the year was 0.6 percent.

Colombia

President Announces Reopening of Embassy in Iran

PA0603135191 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1226 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria has sent a message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announcing the reopening of the Colombian Embassy in Tehran. The government has also decided to open commercial offices in all the Middle Eastern countries, including Kuwait. The commercial office in Kuwait will be opened once the country is rebuilt.

The contact for coordinating the measures to reopen the embassy is the current Colombian ambassador to the OAS, former Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes.

Minister Accuses Mafia of Tapping Official Phones

PA0603151291 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1806 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Bogota, 5 March (DPA)—Colombian Justice Minister Jaime Giraldo today disclosed that the drug mafias operating in the country have an "intelligence service" superior to the government's, as they have tapped the telephone lines of numerous official institutions.

Giraldo, during his participation in a forum on the administration of justice, admitted that the authorities "are at a disadvantage" with regard to the drug traffickers, given that the appropriate mechanisms to counteract the "sophisticated spy system" do not exist in Colombia.

The minister stressed that "although the government officials' telephone lines can be tapped, the security institution cannot turn around and do the same because they are immediately accused of human rights violations."

Over the past few years, several military and police superiors have warned that the drug mafia has infiltrated the state security corps, in order to learn ahead of time about the actions planned against them.

Rebels Attack DAS Facilities; Mining Company

PA0703032591 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 0006 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Report by Heiner Castaneda]

[Text] Today a new wave of attacks swept across the country. Twenty kg of dynamite exploded at noon at the DAS [Administrative Department of Security] installations in Mocoa, Putumayo Intendacy. One police agent was killed and nine others were wounded.

In Campamento, Antioquia Department, National Coordinating Guerrilla Board members took over an asbestos processing plant, burned three trucks, and blew up two electricity pylons.

This time, the Army of National Liberation [ELN] attacked the only asbestos mine in the country, located in Campamento Municipality. A load of dynamite stopped production.

Members of the Camilist Union of the ELN [UC-ELN] arrived at 0000 last night at Las Brisas Mining Company, which they had previously threatened. Taking advantage of the fact that the installations had been demilitarized on 4 March, the rebels went to the dormitories and forced workers to witness the destruction of the main grinding machine and its covering cart as well as the setting afire of two trucks.

[Begin recording] [Worker] They dynamited the grinding machine and two trucks that they found there at that time.

[Castaneda] Did they say any slogans or talk to you at all?

[Worker] No, they did not say a thing. [end recording]

The Las Brisas Mining Company, located in the La Solita trail, is the largest asbetos processing company in Latin America and it is one of the four that exist in the world. It produces 40 tons of asbestos daily.

Today the company's 220 workers, who have been inactive since 26 February given their fear of the guerrilla incursions and the kidnapping of one company engineer, are wandering about the mine not knowing what is going to happen to them. As of now, no one has shown up at the site of the rebel attack in which two electricity pylons were also knocked down. Losses are estimated at over 140 million pesos.

Venezuela

Missing Airplane Found; 53 Confirmed Dead

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[Excerpt] Caracas, 6 Mar (DPA)—A spokesman for the Aeropostal airline said today in Caracas that an airplane with 53 people aboard, which had been missing since yesterday, crashed in the Venezualan Andes, killing all aboard.

The airplane, a DC-9 which carried 48 passengers and five crew members, was declared missing yesterday after taking off from the northwestern city of Maracaibo.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez confirmed the tragedy, the causes of which are still unknown, to the press. He ordered rescue teams to the Paramo de los Torres region in Trujillo State (Province).

According to reports from the region, the plane was found this morning (local time) by a young peasant in a mountainous area of the remote Venezuelan Andes, near the town of Valera, approximately 580 km west of Caracas.

Rescue teams were immediately sent to the area. They later confirmed via radio that they had found the plane.

The plane departed yesterday at 1550 [1950 GMT] from Maracaibo, about 700 km west of Caracas, for a 30-minute trip to the town of Santa Barbara in Zulia State, on the oil-rich [Maracaibo] lake. The plane was supposed to return to Caracas later in the evening.

Aeropostal spokesman Jesus Gomez Lopez said that 10 minutes after takeoff from La Chinita Airport in Maracaibo, the control tower lost radio contact with the plane. Eight minutes before arriving in Santa Barbara, contact was briefly reestablished.

The flight, with stops at Margarita Island in the Caribbean and the central city of Maracay, had originated in Caracas. [passage omitted]